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'Beware of unintended consequences'

By ERWIN ENCINARES
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REPORTER

House Speaker Rafael S. Demapan (R-Saipan) warned the Public School System of unintended consequences when involving the courts in defining the term "general funds."

Demapan said in a statement prior to PSS filing a lawsuit against the CNMI government that the move may result in unintended effects, as history has shown, such as a redefinition of "general funds" to include federal funds.

Demapan said that if the CNMI Judiciary rules that both local and federal funds PSS receives annually counts toward its "annual budget," then PSS would be left with even less of a budget than before.

"There is a real possibility that PSS could lose this case and, in the process, lose millions of dollars in

See PSS on Page 4



KONFITMA EXERCISE

Police officers prepare to "storm" a former juvenile detention facility in Kagman as part of the Konfitma 24-hour exercise that started Wednesday. The team was responding to a "suspected chemical laboratory operated by terrorists."

JON PEREZ

'DOF ready if cannabis bill becomes law'

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Finance Secretary Larrisa Larson assured that her department is

ready to work with other agencies to help enforce regulations that would be in place once the cannabis bill becomes law.

House Bill 20-178, which aims to

legalize and regulate cannabis use in the CNMI, passed the House last week and is awaiting action at the Senate. The bill is expected to unani-

See DOF on Page 4

WITH NO FUNCTIONING CPUC

'CUC can't have financial reserves, nor recover costs'

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Conditions currently do not allow the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.

to have financial reserves nor recover its costs due to the lack of a functioning Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission, according to top CUC officials.

CUC executive director Gary P. Camacho and CUC deputy executive director William B. Gilmore said that two persons who have been nominat-

See CUC on Page 4

93 candidates certified

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Election Commission board certified yesterday the candidacies of 93 candidates vying for 45 positions.

The CEC board did not certify the candidacy of Joana Lyn Camacho as a nonpartisan for the Board of Education Tinian

seat for failing to meet the five-year residency requirement.

CEC administrative officer Kay-

» Lone candidate for Board of Education Tinian seat out of race

la Igitol said in a later interview that Camacho was notified about the board's decision.

Igitol said they had also informed Camacho about the issue before yesterday's board hearing.

Camacho did not appear at the

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INSIDE



LOCAL

More than 20 airmen from the Guam Air National Guard help renovate the Tinian health clinic.

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LOCAL

The Saipan Agricultural Fair showcased the Northern Marianas College-CREES program.

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LIFE & STYLE

The wild and steep ascent of 'Crazy Rich Asians' breakout star Henry Golding.

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Local

No update yet on USCIS regulations

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services has yet to release regulations governing the implementation of the Northern Mariana Islands U.S. Workforce Act of 2018 or H.R. 5956.

The new regulations will be implemented in the next fiscal year, with fiscal year 2019 still following the previous guidelines set in the first extension of the CNMI-only Transition-

al Worker visa program.

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres said they are going to release information once USCIS officials release the new regulations.

Labor Secretary Vicky I. Benavete said, in a previous interview, that they are expecting some changes in the guidelines set by the new law. She added that they are in constant contact with USCIS and it could take them almost a month before releasing the new regulations.

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C.

Sablan (Ind-MP) said his office is also not aware of any new regulations promulgated by USCIS regarding the NMI Workforce Act. He said it has been almost three weeks since he last talked with USCIS.

"When I was in a meeting with USCIS officials in the afternoon of July 25, [they] did issue a notice announcing that 8,001 CW permits were available and that petitioners needed to use new petition form [while] also [adding] \$50 to petitions sub-

mitted," said Sablan.

"That was the last development that has transpired since the President signed [H.R.5956]. That does not mean they are not working on new regulations. I am just not aware that those regulations have been published in the *Federal Register*," he added.

President Trump signed H.R. 5956 on July 25 (Wednesday, Washington D.C. time) that extends the CNMI's foreign worker program, called the CW-1 pro-

gram, to 2029 and increases the cap from 4,999 to 13,000 and extends the exemption on the national cap for H-1B and H-2B workers in the CNMI.

USCIS will collect a \$50 fraud prevention and detection fee for each CW-1 petition submitted by an employer

See USCIS on Page 4

NMI resident to undergo Army Ranger training

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
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REPORTER

In what he believes would make him the first CNMI resident to do so, Donovan Mendiola, an infantryman with the U.S. Army, will take on the intense and challenging Army Ranger training.

Mendiola, who recently completed the U.S. Infantry One Station Unit Training, will further challenge himself and will attend numerous military schools on top of taking on the grueling Army ranger training.

OSUT, sometimes referred to as One Site Unit Training, is a term used by the U.S. Army to refer to a training program in which recruits remain with the same unit for both Basic Combat Training and Advanced Individual Training.

Mendiola believes he could be the first resident of the CNMI in the U.S. to take up the Army Ranger training.

"I don't know any Ranger on Saipan. It's a very intense

and grueling type of training. You train in the toughest environments and only the strong survive," he said.

Mendiola aims to become a Ranger medic in the U.S. Army.

"Once you're a Ranger you are trained to...perform at the highest level of perfection and it takes a couple of months of training and then a few more to become a medic," he said.

Mendiola said that there is a selection process to participate in the U.S. Army Ranger training.

According to Mendiola, before he was even given the opportunity to consider undergoing Ranger training, he had to prove his skill during the U.S. Infantry OSUT training where he was also recognized for his marksmanship and leadership.

"My Infantry OSUT training was 14 weeks long. My training [included] different obstacle courses. ...All of these things tested us on our strength and our fear of heights," he said.

OAG amends charges vs 4 men in rape case

The Office of the Attorney General has amended the charges against four men, including a father and son, who were accused of rape.

The amended information charged 42-year-old Joseph Aquino Saimon with sexual assault in the first degree, and assault and battery.

Romeo Aquino Saimon, 43; Richmond Ray Keybond, 19; and Christopher Aquino Saimon, 38; were charged each with two counts of sexual assault in

the second degree.

Romeo Saimon is the father of Keybond.

Romeo, Christopher, and Joseph Saimon are brothers.

According to the amended information filed by assistant attorney general Teri C. Tenorio, Joseph Saimon sexually assaulted the victim last June 25.

Joseph Saimon also allegedly pushed the victim, caus-

ing her to fall and bruise her knees last June 24.

Romeo Saimon, Keybond, and Christopher Saimon allegedly sexually assaulted the woman twice while she was incapacitated last June 24.

Police said the victim was drunk and was sleeping when the defendants raped her.

At a preliminary hearing last month, Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho found probable



Tenorio

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KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA

The selected firefighters who will venture to Sacramento, California pose for a photo following their press conference at the Governor's Office yesterday

15 NMI firefighters to help fight Calif. wildfires

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
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REPORTER

A group of 15 firefighters and aspiring firefighters will make the journey to Sacramento, California today to help fight the wildfires ravaging the state.

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and Lt. Gov. Victor B Hocog were briefed yesterday about the challenges that this group will face.

The group is being sent to California as part of the CNMI's agreement with the U.S. Forest Services. That agreement has been in place since 1996.

"And it was renewed again for five more years. Part of that agreement is that we provide type II crews, which are wildlife firefighters," said Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services Commissioner Clyde Norita.

Norita said the U.S. Forest Service chooses whom they would like deployed to the U.S. to aid in the combat wildfire.

"They [U.S. Forest Service] shoulder all the expenses like travel and lodging and [the firefighters] are given a salary equivalent to that of U.S. Forest Service members," he said.

The 15 firefighters are scheduled to fly out to Sacramento today. The group will be deployed for 30 to 45 days.

Norita said the program gives people from the CNMI the opportunity to gain first-hand experience with wildfires and to gain knowledge directly from the U.S. Forest Service.

"We are able to have our people actually fight real forest fires," he said.

Norita said the good thing about the mutual agreement is that the CNMI's rainy season ends as parts of the U.S. grows hotter, so the CNMI is able to spare its firefighters.

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8 arrested for allegedly carjacking tour vans

By **KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA**
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REPORTER

A group of juveniles were ar-

rested earlier this week for allegedly stealing two tour vans and are currently detained at the Department of Corrections.

According to the Department of Public Safety, the group of eight juveniles were spotted last Monday driving a

stolen tour van.

Five of the eight were arrested and detained but the three were not. The DPS state-

ment did not specify why the three were not arrested.

At approximately 2:05am, DPS officers stopped a tour van for a traffic violation near Johnny's Bar and Grill in Garapan. Three individuals were spotted inside the van, including the driver.

The driver could not give the police officers any form of identification and was asked to step out of the vehicle. Immediately after getting out of the vehicle, the driver and his two other passengers fled the scene on foot.

The officers gave chase but soon lost sight of them. The van was impounded.

Later that same day, at

12:25pm, a male caller contacted DPS to report a stolen tour van from the Marianas Business Plaza that was later identified as the tour van that DPS had impounded earlier that day.

According to the caller, the van was stolen at approximately 6pm on Sunday evening, Aug. 12.

At 11:22pm, another tour van was reported stolen from the Moonlight Poker parking area in Chalan Kanoa.

An eyewitness told *Saipan Tribune* that the van was later spotted in Garapan where the eight juveniles (including the individuals spotted earlier that day) were arrested by DPS and detained.

93

From Page 1

board meeting.

With Camacho out, that means that Tinian has no candidate for the island's BOE seat. The other Tinian candidate, Jonathan SN. Sablan, withdrew his candidacy a day after he filed his petition.

Igitol said the board also approved the ballot layout for the Nov. 6 general election.

With the board's approval, Igitol sent the ballot layout to their printer, which is based in Nebraska.

Present at the board meeting



Commonwealth Election Commission administrative officer Kayla Igitol.
FERDIE DE LA TORRE

were pro-tem chair Jesus I. Sablan, pro-tem vice chair Patri-

cia Mareham, four other commissioners, assistant attorney

general Charles Brasington, and CEC staff.

PSS

From Page 1

funding. If this scenario seems impossible, then the [Judiciary] would not be needed to resolve the matter," Demapan warned in his statement published last Aug. 10, 2018.

Almost half of PSS' total budget comes from federal grants.

According to the CNMI Constitution, PSS is entitled to 25 percent of CNMI "general funds." It is unclear whether "general funds" refer to CNMI funds prior to annual earmarks imposed by law.

Currently, the Legislature appropriates to PSS at least 25 percent of "general funds" after the deduction of annual earmarks.

Because of the lack of clarity, PSS interprets the CNMI Constitution to include annual earmarks, pushing PSS to strive toward a certified question with a member of the legislature cosigning it.

According to a member of the Board of Education, they approached the speaker to cosign the certified question. He was also given a deadline of July 31, 2018, to cosign or else PSS would sue the CNMI government, which was officially filed Monday.

Demapan issued the statement to explain why he would not cosign the certified question, ultimately leading the education agency to file a lawsuit against the CNMI government last Monday.

In his Aug. 10, 2018, press release, Demapan explained that the situation, as it is now, can be better managed through "better communications" and suing the CNMI government might result in even more complications since it invites the Judiciary into the legislative and appropriations process and introduces "possible separation of powers issues and political questions."

"We must be mindful that any litigation may result in unintended consequences. There also will be costs," said Demapan. "Neither the Legislature nor the Board of Education can predict what will happen in the event that the CNMI Supreme Court decides to resolve a 'certified question,'" he added, citing a recent "well intended" effort to reduce the size of the Legislature that ended up adding more seats.

"...[This is] the unforeseen result of a recent well-intentioned certified question gone awry," wrote Demapan, who doubts that a certified question would resolve the disagreement.

DOF

From Page 1

mously pass and could be on Gov. Ralph DLG Torres' desk before the year ends.

H.B. 20-178 was re-introduced by Rep. Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero (R-Saipan) after amending the previous bill penned by Sen. Sixto K. Igisomar (R-Saipan) since the latter's bill had revenue-generating sections.

The bill had to be re-introduced since all revenue-generating bills must come from the House, including the government's budget, and other monetary appropriations and earmarks.

"When it comes to enforcement, especially for these new industries, we always work together to find out how can we use our existing regulations to enforce these bills," Larson told *Saipan Tribune*.

She added that the department would recommend regulations that they see fit to be implemented. "Something that we will consider to be implemented before we move forward with this bill."

"One thing that is been really nice for the last couple of years is there's been a lot of collaboration with different agencies. We've really had a good working relationship because we are committed in enforcing."

Larson said that ensuring that taxes are collected is the result of the cooperation of all agencies involved, like the Division of Customs and the Department of Public Safety, among others.

She said the Legislature always solicits the comments of Finance for revenue-generating bills. "Whenever anything involves revenue generation bills, our office is asked for comments. And because of the changes, we're trying to review the latest version of the bill so that we can make some comments on it."

"Anything that brings revenue into the Commonwealth is something that we need to take seriously and take a look at. So, we will be reviewing and making our comments on that," added Larson.

Thorough review

Torres said that he would re-

view the bill thoroughly once it arrives on his desk before he signs it. "When it comes to [my desk] we will be reviewing what has passed."

"I will be looking into the recommendations as what the community agreed on. I will look at the report and the testimonies. I'm actually going to review all the testimonies thoroughly. This is something that I'm not going to rush into," added Torres.

He said he has also sought the input of various sectors in the community since several states in the U.S. mainland have already legalized marijuana use, either for medicinal or recreational purposes.

"I do know, if I'm not mistaken, that there are 29 states that have some sort of legalizing marijuana or cannabis, whether for medicinal or recreational [use]. That is something that I am looking into as well," said Torres.

Colorado, Washington State, Alaska, Oregon, California, Massachusetts, Nevada, and Washington, D.C. had already passed laws that tax, legalize, and regulate marijuana use, either for medicinal

or recreational purposes. Vermont recently legalized home cultivation and possession but is now thinking of also taxing and regulating it.

Torres said he respects the process of how the bill went through before reaching the Senate, where it awaits action. "I've asked several departments. Went out to the community and asked different people and organizations. I'm happy that they [Legislature] did a lot of public hearings on it."

"[That's] something that the Legislature looked at and thoroughly and asked the community for input. I'm sure that they've also done their own research. And an amendment was made, so now it is going back to the Senate."

"I would like to say that I respect the process that they made. This is something that was given to the community and was supported widely. This is something that I should consider as well, because that's the reason why we have public hearings, to give the community a chance to air their concerns or support the bill," Torres added.

CUC

From Page 1

ed by Gov. Ralph DLG. Torres to CPUC; one has withdrawn their nomination.

"Hence, there is no quorum," said Camacho and Gilmore in their report pertaining to stipulated order No. 1. The report was filed last week in the U.S. District Court for the NMI.

SO1 focuses on drinking water and wastewater and the restructuring of CUC's organization.

Camacho and Gilmore stated that adopting the policy to capture and retain financial reserves will require CPUC to authorize that since the present policy of CPUC is that CUC is self-regulated, self-funded and a non-profit entity.

That means any excess revenue generated by the CUC is to be returned by a reduction in rates or some other means.

"There are sound reasons for the creation of financial reserves that can benefit not only CUC but offers an avenue to reduce the need to modify rates over time," they said.

Camacho and Gilmore said their chief financial officer has been tasked for some time with preparing a multi-year fi-

nancial plan; however, he has not submitted one as yet.

In February 2017, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency project coordinator John Tinger underscored the need for CUC to develop financial reserves so it could fund and implement the drinking water and wastewater master plan.

Tinger said the financial reserves are needed for emergency operations and maintenance.

"CUC must establish a rate structure to generate sufficient revenues," he said in his declaration in federal court.

Tinger pointed out that SO1 requires CUC to have an interim financial plan and a final financial plan that will generate enough revenue to cover compliance activities, the stipulated orders, and measures necessary to ensure compliance with the Clean Water Act and Safe Drinking Water Act.

He said SO1 also requires CUC to have a drinking water and wastewater master plan approved by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to determine current and future infrastructure needs for a 20-year period, and to provide a long-term plan for CUC's drinking water and wastewater system improvements.

petition. Starting fiscal year 2020, the CW-1 permit would be valid for three years.

Rep. Rob Bishop (R-Utah) re-introduced H.R. 5956 in the U.S. House of Representatives, the same bill penned by Sen. Lisa Murkowski (R-Alaska). The bill needed to be re-introduced since the Senate version had revenue-generating sections, which needed to come from the House.

Local businesses reportedly heaved a sigh of relief after it appeared that USCIS had already accepted their petitions to extend their respective workers. WAC numbers had also been released, meaning USCIS had received their applications for extension.

USCIS

From Page 2

aside from the current fees. The fraud and prevention fee, however, does not apply to those CW-1 petitions that were filed as of July 24, 2018, and are pending for action.

The Workforce Act has also set a new cap from fiscal year 2019 to 2029; there would only be 1,000 slots for the first quarter of fiscal year 2030.

Employees, after the expiration of their second renewal period, must also leave the CNMI and stay outside for at least 30 days prior to the submission of their third renewal

13 students here for English camp

By **ERWIN ENCINARES**
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REPORTER

Thirteen students from different schools in South Korea are visiting Saipan for a month-long English program that would not only teach them to master the English language, but would also allow for an exchange of culture, perspective, and knowledge.

The 13 students are attending the Costa World Tour English Camp.

Last year, 12 Korean students visited the CNMI under the same program, said Costa World Tour president Yeon Tae Choi yesterday.

"They experience American schools and American English as well as share outdoor activities and exchange cultural information," Choi said.

It not only allows the students to practice their English but also changes their daily routine. Choi said the program also teaches the students about the Chamorro and Carolinian cultures.

The students usually come to Saipan either during summer or winter.



Coastal World Tour program participants visit Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang.

FAHIM UDDIN

Choi noted that the 13 students hail from all over South Korea and not from one specific school and that they visited Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang on Tuesday.

According to Saipan Mayor's Office student exchange coordinator Yuki Kishimoto, the students arrived to Saipan on July 30, 2018.

They are scheduled to depart Saipan on Aug. 26, 2018. Before then, the students would be doing a beach clean-up at Sugar Dock on Saturday.

ESGR Week starts Friday

By **ERWIN ENCINARES**
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REPORTER

Celebration of the 2018 Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve Week in the CNMI is set to start tomorrow, with several activities lined up.

ESGR Week recognizes the commitment of employers and communities in the CNMI who support the citizen soldiers, sailors, airmen, marines, and coastguardsmen by allowing them to serve while keeping their civilian jobs on hold for them.

ESGR Week would kick off tomorrow, with a 10:30am lunch at the Fiesta Resort and Spa Saipan. This lunch highlights the importance of ESGR and the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act of 1994, the law that protects the employment rights of service members and their employers.

At 3pm tomorrow, a ribbon cutting ceremony would be held at the Saipan Mayor's Office in Oleai to officially open an ESGR office there. ESGR state chair Donald Clark would be leading the ceremony with ESGR chairman emeritus Maj. Gen. Benny Paulino (ret.) and Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang, who was recently the recipient of ESGR's Seven Seals Award, which is awarded to individuals and organizations that help ensure the success and continued growth of ESGR.

On Monday, Aug. 20, 2018, Gov. Ralph DLG Torres is scheduled to sign the proclamation officially declaring Aug. 20 to Aug. 24, 2018 as ESGR Week. The signing will take place at 10am in the Office of the Governor's Office conference room on Capital Hill.

At 11am Monday, both the House of Representatives and the Senate would be adopting separate resolutions recognizing ESGR Week. Rep. Angel A. Demapan (R-Saipan) and Senate President Arnold I. Palacios (R-Saipan) sponsored the House and Senate versions of the resolutions. At 2pm, the attendees would be visiting Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP).

The coveted Patriot Award would be awarded at a later date to two local CNMI employers to recognize their support to their service member employee and their families.

ESGR is a U.S. Department of Defense program established in 1972. The aim of the program is to promote cooperation and understanding between Reserve members and their civilian employers and to assist in the resolution of conflicts possibly arising from an employee's military commitment.

For more information about ESGR outreach programs or volunteer opportunities, contact the ESGR Area committee chair Rose Igitol at 287-1129 or visit www.ESGR.mil.

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PSS to set ‘career pathway’ for students

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

The CNMI Public School System will be implementing this school year a new policy that would prepare graduating seniors for life after high school—either learning career skills in vocational trades and join the workforce or going to college for higher education. This was PSS’ addendum to its the graduation policy, said Jackie Quitugua, the associate commissioner for Curriculum

and Instructional Services, where they would work closely with the Northern Marianas College and the Northern Marianas Trades Institute. “What we [will] have [is] a pathway that would show different career pathways for our children. [Like] what would be the required—math, science, social studies, and language arts—which in the end gives flexibility to the school system in addressing these needs,” said Quitugua. She said that PSS would

be assisted by what is what is called a Kuder assessment. Kuder is a career guidance service provider that offers resources and other tools for career planners. “We’re guided by the interest and skills of our children that are taking the Kuder assessment, which really is very informative to us because it tells us what are the different careers,” said Quitugua. Quitugua said the task at hand is expected to be hard, but they are willing to do it for

the good of the CNMI’s youth. “It is a lot but, in the end, we are also answering the question: ‘Are we getting our students ready for college, career, and life?’ I think that’s the question that we need to always be putting at the forefront, in our hearts and minds. To remind us that we need to be providing our children the quality instruction that would lead them to a good life in the future,” she added. NMTI said they had partnered with PSS in developing

a curriculum for the vocational trades from the ninth to 12th grades. This vocational trades curriculum will start this school year and NMTI has already donated two vans that will be used to transport students from public schools to the NMTI campus in Lower Base. NMTI chief executive officer Agnes McPhetres said the vocational trades would prepare graduating seniors to learn the skills and earn certificates that would prepare them to enter the local workforce if

they choose to do so. Automotive technology, construction technology, culinary arts, and hotel and restaurant operations are programs that are still being offered, with the addition of adult technical high school, carpentry, electricity, electronics, electronic systems technician, professionalism heavy equipment operations, power generation maintenance (mechanic and electrician), welding trades, and heating, ventilation, and air-conditioning. NMC also has various courses for graduating high school students seeking higher education.

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**American Sinopan, LLC
dba Capitol Hill Residence**

The Public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board public hearing on this request for Conditional Use Permit. American Sinopan, LLC dba Capitol Hill Residence is proposing to amend its Conditional Use Permit No. 2017- 2409 (Heaven II Resort) to include the construction of 12 residential villas and a clubhouse as part of their Phase II Heaven II project. This use is classified as “Planned Development/Hotel” and is permitted in the district as Conditional Use. This project is located on TR22667-2-R1, TR22667-5, and TR22667-R5 in Capitol Hill. This area is zoned as Rural.

Date: Thursday, August 23, 2018
Time: 5:00 pm
Place: Governor Pedro P. Tenorio Multipurpose Center, Susupe

Comments on the proposal may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments may be submitted directly to the Zoning Office on or before 4:30 pm, August 22, 2018. Please send written comments via e-mail to Therese.Ogumoro@zoning.gov.mp, via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950, or deliver them to the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, Dandan, Saipan.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please call 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq.) and the Saipan Zoning Law of 2013.

/s/ Diego C. Blanco, Chairman

NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING

for
Eunice SPN Corporation

The Public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board public hearing on this request for Conditional Use Permit. Eunice SPN Corporation is proposing to occupy 2 existing one-storey structures with a total of 5 units to operate a Bed & Breakfast establishment. This use is classified as “Bed & Breakfast” and is permitted in the district as a Conditional Use. This project is located on Lot No. 399-3-1-R1 in As Lito. This area is zoned as Village Residential.

Date: Thursday, August 23, 2018
Time: 5:00 pm
Place: Governor Pedro P. Tenorio Multipurpose Center, Susupe

Comments on the proposal may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments may be submitted directly to the Zoning Office on or before 4:30 pm, August 22, 2018. Please send written comments via e-mail to Therese.Ogumoro@zoning.gov.mp, via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950, or deliver them to the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, Dandan, Saipan.

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/s/ Diego C. Blanco, Chairman

NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING

for
**UMDA Wholesale/Retail, Inc.
dba Island Apparel**

The Public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board public hearing on this request for Conditional Use Permit. UMDA Wholesale/Retail Inc. dba Island Apparel is proposing to relocate its business from Puerto Rico to Koblerville and occupy an existing one-storey building for manufacturing and processing of apparels. This project is classified as “Manufacturing & Processing” and is permitted in the district as Conditional Use. This project is located on Lot No. 023 I 02 in Koblerville. This area is zoned as Village Commercial.

Date: Thursday, August 23, 2018
Time: 5:00 pm
Place: Governor Pedro P. Tenorio Multipurpose Center, Susupe

Comments on the proposal may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments may be submitted directly to the Zoning Office on or before 4:30 pm, August 22, 2018. Please send written comments via e-mail to Therese.Ogumoro@zoning.gov.mp, via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950, or deliver them to the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, Dandan, Saipan.

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/s/ Diego C. Blanco, Chairman

NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING

for
**RJCL Corporation
dba RNV Construction**

The Public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board public hearing on this request for Conditional Use Permit. RJCL Corporation dba RNV Construction is proposing to renovate and occupy three (3) existing one-storey structures with a total of 25 beds for staff housing. This use is classified as “Institutional Residential” and is permitted in the district as Conditional Use. This project is located on Lot No. EA 109 NEW-1 in Chalan Kiya. This area is zoned as Village Residential.

Date: Thursday, August 23, 2018
Time: 5:00 pm
Place: Governor Pedro P. Tenorio Multipurpose Center, Susupe

Comments on the proposal may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments may be submitted directly to the Zoning Office on or before 4:30 pm, August 22, 2018. Please send written comments via e-mail to Therese.Ogumoro@zoning.gov.mp, via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950, or deliver them to the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, Dandan, Saipan.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please call 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq.) and the Saipan Zoning Law of 2013.

/s/ Diego C. Blanco, Chairman

NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING

for
Ya Myoung Corporation

The Public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board public hearing on this request for Conditional Use Permit. Ya Myoung Corporation is proposing to relocate and occupy Room No. 1-1 on the ground floor of an existing building to manufacture and process Noni juice. This use is classified as “Manufacturing & Processing” and is permitted in the district as Conditional Use. This project is located on Lot No. 1826-2 in Chalan LauLau. This area is zoned as Mixed Commercial.

Date: Thursday, August 23, 2018
Time: 5:00 pm
Place: Governor Pedro P. Tenorio Multipurpose Center, Susupe

Comments on the proposal may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments may be submitted directly to the Zoning Office on or before 4:30 pm, August 22, 2018. Please send written comments via e-mail to Therese.Ogumoro@zoning.gov.mp, via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950, or deliver them to the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, Dandan, Saipan.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please call 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq.) and the Saipan Zoning Law of 2013.

/s/ Diego C. Blanco, Chairman

NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING

for
Yumiko Corporation

The Public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board public hearing on this request for Conditional Use Permit. Yumiko Corporation is proposing to occupy Unit No. GF-1 of the American Tour Inn building to operate a Copy Center, Small Print, and Sign Shop. This project is classified as “Copy Center, Small Print, and Sign Shop” and is permitted in the district as Conditional Use. This project is located on Lot No. H 314-2-R1 in As Lito. This area is zoned as Village Commercial.

Date: Thursday, August 23, 2018
Time: 5:00 pm
Place: Governor Pedro P. Tenorio Multipurpose Center, Susupe

Comments on the proposal may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments may be submitted directly to the Zoning Office on or before 4:30 pm, August 22, 2018. Please send written comments via e-mail to Therese.Ogumoro@zoning.gov.mp, via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950, or deliver them to the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, Dandan, Saipan.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please call 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq.) and the Saipan Zoning Law of 2013.

/s/ Diego C. Blanco, Chairman

Insurer's settlement of wrongful death claim found invalid

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie.delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

U.S. District Court for the CNMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona has disagreed with the contention of a couple that their former car insurer's \$15,000 settlement in a wrongful death claim filed by a mother of a deceased son is invalid because it never received court approval.

Manglona said the CNMI statute does not offer any clarity as to whether court approval is a prerequisite to settlement that would affect the legality of negotiations between parties.

The court has not found any CNMI case law interpreting this provision, and couple Dong-Youl Kim and Hee Ko Moon offer none, either from this jurisdiction or other jurisdictions, said Manglona in denying the couple's motion for partial summary judgment.

In the same order, the judge denied the request of the couple's former car insurer, Pacific Indemnity Insurance Co., to sanction the couple for filing several motions for partial summary judgment.

She, however, barred Kim and Moon from filing any motions for partial or full summary judgment until after the close of discovery.

Manglona said all three of the couple's motions for partial summary judgment could have been brought in a single motion, as no new facts or evidence was shown between the filing of each motion.

Despite this inefficiency, the court declines at this time to find this submission of piecemeal motions to be in bad faith, Manglona said.

On the merits of the couple's claim, Manglona said that Kim and Moon offer no evidence, other than their lawyer Charles P. Reyes Jr.'s assertions of what orders he was able to find, to support the contention that court approval was not obtained.

Manglona said even if the Superior Court has not approved this settlement agreement, the District Court cannot say that it is invalid and unenforceable against Apolonia Joseph, as the administratrix and/or personal representative of her deceased son's estate.

According to court records, Kim and Moon's son was driving their car on Jan. 2, 2013, when it hit Jefferson Keju, who subsequently died. A second car reportedly then hit Keju.

Police and court records showed that Keju was running away after being chased and

beat up by two men.

Keju's mother, Apolonia Joseph, filed a claim with Pacific Indemnity Insurance Co. for wrongful death.

Joseph was subsequently appointed administratrix of her deceased son's estate to, among other things, pursue the insurance claim with Pacific Indemnity Insurance Co.

Pacific Indemnity offered "the policy limits of \$15,000" to settle the claim and provided a release of claims agreement.

On Feb. 27, 2014, in exchange for the \$15,000 payment to "the estate of Keju," Joseph signed the release of claims as the administratrix.

In the release of claims, Joseph agreed to release couple Kim and Moon, their son, and Pacific Indemnity.

Pacific Indemnity provided a copy of the release to plaintiffs' attorney, who acknowledged receipt and responded that he would "pass it on to the clients."

The \$15,000 was paid to the law office of Joseph's counsel and deposited in the client trust account. The next day, Feb. 28, 2014, the amount was paid to Joseph, minus funds owed her attorney.

In December 2014, an action for wrongful death was

filed by a representative of Keju against the couple.

In March 2016, the couple agreed to a stipulated judgment against them in the amount of \$300,000 in exchange for a covenant not to sue.

In August 2017, Kim and Moon filed the lawsuit against Pacific Indemnity for allegedly not defending them in

the wrongful death lawsuit that forced them to settle with Keju's family for \$300,000.

The issue in this matter is the couple's third motion for partial judgment, which contends the \$15,000 settlement of Joseph's wrongful death claim is invalid because it never received court approval.

Pacific Indemnity, through counsel Robert T. Torres, re-

sponds that plaintiffs are estopped from challenging the validity of the settlement because they accepted the benefit of the settlement.

Pacific Indemnity argues that, if the settlement was initially invalid, the plaintiffs ratified it by accepting the benefits and that the only person who could challenge the settlement is Joseph.



BACK-TO-SCHOOL DRIVE

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The CHCC Employees Association conducted their own back-to-school drive to help with the children that come and visit the Children's Clinic. The school supplies were put in a bin and were dropped off at the Children's Clinic for their patients to choose from. Another two boxes were donated to Karidat's Guma' Esperansa to assist the families on checking off their back-to-school necessities. We are truly grateful to staff of Commonwealth Health Center for donating and in helping us accomplish our goals and our mission.





THINK GLOBALLY. LEARN LOCALLY.

Bonny Cruz
NMC Graduate, 2014 (Elem. Education)
Educational Technology Teacher
CNMI Public School System

**Registration for Fall 2018
Semester is ongoing until
August 17, 2018**

For more information, log on to
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Office of Admissions & Records at
237-6768 / 6769 / 6771



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Seven students from the Philippine Science High School Western Visayas Campus in Iloilo City, Philippines, completed an 80-hour science immersion internship this summer at the University of Guam. Back row, from left, Dr. Lee S. Yudin, dean of the College of Natural & Applied Sciences at the University of Guam; Joemar Ramos, teacher chaperone for PSHS students; Matt Mills, marine biology graduate student at UOG; Daniel Adriano, teaching assistant at CNAS; Eduardo Biala, laboratory technician III at CNAS; Karla Wang, laboratory technician supervisor at CNAS; and Carlos R. Taitano, director of Professional & International Programs at UOG. Front row, from left, PSHS students J.P. P. Superficial; Gideon Bendicion; Beverly Constantino; Justin Tan; Amos Tuangco; Amos Tuangco; and Ryne Molina. uog

(A M E N D E D)

Commonwealth Zoning Board Meeting Agenda

Thursday, August 23, 2018
5:00 PM, Governor Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-purpose Center, Susupe
Tel: 234-9661 • Fax: 234-9666 • www.zoning.gov.mp

A. Preliminary Matters

- 1. Call to Order
- 2. Roll Call
- 3. Adoption of Agenda
- 4. Adoption of 06/04/2018 meeting minutes
- 5. Public Comments (not related to files for discussion under item B. Public Hearings)

B. Public Hearings:

- 1. **Conditional Use Application #2018-1979:** Ya Myoung Corporation is proposing to relocate and occupy Room No. 1-1 on the ground floor of an existing building to manufacture and process Noni juice. This use is classified as “Manufacturing & Processing” and is permitted in the district as Conditional Use. This project is located on Lot No. 1826-2 in Chalan LauLau. This area is zoned as Mixed Commercial.
- 2. **Conditional Use Application #2018-1998:** RJCL Corporation dba RNV Construction is proposing to renovate and occupy three (3) existing one-storey structures with a total of 25 beds for staff housing. This use is classified as “Institutional Residential” and is permitted in the district as Conditional Use. This project is located on Lot No. EA 109 NEW-1 in Chalan Kiya. This area is zoned as Village Residential.
- 3. **Conditional Use Application #2018-2248:** Eunice SPN Corporation is proposing to occupy 2 existing one-storey structures with a total of 5 units to operate a Bed & Breakfast establishment. This use is classified as “Bed & Breakfast” and is permitted in the district as a Conditional Use. This project is located on Lot No. 399-3-1-R1 in As Lito. This area is zoned as Village Residential.
- 4. **Conditional Use Application #2018-2259:** Yumiko Corporation is proposing to occupy Unit No. GF-1 of the American Tour Inn building to operate a Copy Center, Small Print, and Sign Shop. This project is classified as “Copy Center, Small Print, and Sign Shop” and is permitted in the district as Conditional Use. This project is located on Lot No. H 314-2-R1 in As Lito. This area is zoned as Village Commercial.
- 5. **Conditional Use Application #2018-2711:** UMDA Wholesale/Retail Inc. dba Island Apparel is proposing to relocate its business from Puerto Rico to Koblerville and occupy an existing one-storey building for manufacturing and processing of apparels. This project is classified as “Manufacturing & Processing” and is permitted in the district as Conditional Use. This project is located on Lot No. 023 I 02 in Koblerville. This area is zoned as Village Commercial.
- 6. **Conditional Use Application #2018-2834:** American Sinopan, LLC dba Capitol Hill Residence is proposing to amend its Conditional Use Permit No. 2017- 2409 (Heaven II Resort) to include the construction of 12 residential villas and a clubhouse as part of their Phase II Heaven II project. This use is classified as “Planned Development/Hotel” and is permitted in the district as Conditional Use. This project is located on TR22667-2-R1, TR22667-5, and TR22667-R5 in Capitol Hill. This area is zoned as Rural.

C. Communication

D. Old Business:

- 1. Update on proposed amendments to the Zoning Law

E. New Business

- 1. Review/Update on Sin Ho Nam Litigation
- 2. Operations Reports (Permitting & Enforcement)

F. Executive (Closed) Session

G. Miscellaneous

- a. Other Matters
- b. Announcements
- c. Next Meeting

H. Adjourn

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the Board meeting, or if you require assistance, please contact the Zoning Administrator, Therese T. Ogumoro, at 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq. & 10 CMC 3511, et seq.).

/s/ Diego C. Blanco, Zoning Board Chairman

UOG hosts Filipino high school science interns

The College of Natural & Applied Sciences and the Marine Laboratory at the University of Guam hosted high school students from the Philippines in June and July for an 80-hour science immersion internship program.

The Philippine Science High School Western Visayas Campus in Iloilo City, Phil-

ippines, initially reached out with the request, as seven students had indicated a preference for interning at UOG based on their science and research interests.

Three students interned with CNAS, where they experienced an introduction to college chemistry, including standard lab practices and

procedures. Four students interned with the marine lab, where they collected calcifying algae from the field and processed the samples in the molecular lab.

“This was a great way to promote the university to foreign students who are trying to figure out what path they would like to pursue when they graduate high school,” said Carlos R. Taitano, director of UOG’s Professional & International Programs.

UOG graduate students served as the internship site supervisors. They benefitted from the exchange as well, Taitano said, by being able to showcase their knowledge and expertise in their fields of study.

The internship is a requirement for the school’s 10th and 11th grade students in order to provide them hands-on science laboratory experience, allow them to interact and establish linkages to institutions, scientists, and research practitioners, and inspire their future careers.

The Philippines Science High School System is a service agency of the Philippines’ Department of Science & Technology. It is a specialized public high school system with a mandate to provide scholarships to students with high aptitude in science and mathematics and to prepare them for careers in science and technology fields. (UOG)



BOARD OF REGENTS NORTHERN MARIANAS COLLEGE SPECIAL MEETING

Date: Friday, August 17, 2018
Time: 3:00p.m
Venue: Board Regents Conference Room
Saipan Campus

ORDER of BUSINESS

- I. **CALL TO ORDER**
 - a. Roll Call
 - b. Review and Adoption of Agenda
- II. **PUBLIC COMMENT:** Individuals may orally testify on items on the agenda during the Public Comment Period. Written testimony is also accepted. Oral testimonies are limited to five (5) minutes.
- III. **NEW BUSINESS**
 - a. CEO contract (WSCUC report)
- IV. **EXECUTIVE SESSION** (At any time during the scheduled meeting of the Board, Regents may be required to enter into executive session to discuss matters deemed privileged and confidential)
- V. **ADJOURNMENT**

/s/ Regent Charles V. Cepeda
BOR Chairman

Date: August 17, 2018

Quarters program depicts Saipan's AMP

The U.S. Mint unveiled yesterday the official designs for the 2019-dated coins in the America the Beautiful Quarters Program, including one depicting the American Memorial Park on Saipan.

The designs were unveiled at the American Numismatic Association's World's Fair of Money in the Philadelphia Convention Center.

The designs for five new quarters will be displayed on the reverse (tails side) of quarters.

They depict national parks from around the country: American Memorial Park (Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands), War in the Pacific National Historical Park (Guam), Lowell National Historic Park (Massachusetts), San Antonio Missions National Historic Park (Texas), and Frank Church River of No Return Wilderness (Idaho).

The American Memorial Park quarter was designed by Donna Weaver and sculpted-engraved by Phebe Hemphill

and depicts a young woman in traditional attire at the front of the Court of Honor. She is resting her hand on the plaque that honors the sacrifices of those who died in the World War II Marianas Campaign in 1944.

The American Memorial Park Quarter launch date will be announced at a later date.

For more information on the US Mint program and the release date of the quarters visit the program website: <https://www.usmint.gov/learn/coin-and-medal-programs/america-the->

beautiful-quarters. For more information on the American Memorial Park quarter, please contact Park Superintendent Barbara Alberti, at (670) 234-7207, extension 2020 or via email at barbara_alberti@nps.gov. (NPS)

The CNMI quarter depicts a young woman in traditional attire at the front of the American Memorial Park's Court of Honor. She is resting her hand on the plaque that honors the sacrifices of those who died in the WWII Marianas Campaign in 1944.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Call for youth musicians extended

The newly established Tumon Bay Youth Orchestra has extended auditions for their inaugural 2019 music season to Sept. 7, 2018.

This second call out is specifically for the members of the community that have recently relocated to Guam, and for current residents that may have missed the initial call for musicians.

In our initial call for members in May 2018, close to 60 youth from Guam and Saipan have auditioned for the orchestra.

The orchestra plans to tour Australia in the summer of 2019. Rehearsals will begin

mid-September 2019.

Auditions are open to all who play violin, viola, cello, upright bass, percussion, oboe, bassoon, French horn, trombone, tuba, and percussion with at least three years playing experience and are under the age of 25 by Dec. 31, 2019.

Additional information on the audition process can be found at <http://www.guamphilharmonic.org/extended-audition.html>

For more information, contact Derrick Yen, orchestra manager at 483-9788 or email tbyoguam@gmail.com. (PR)

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Veterans affairs visit to Saipan

A U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs benefits counselor will be at the CNMI Military/Veterans Affairs Office on Sept. 5, 2018, from 9am to 4pm. The benefits counselor will be available to answer benefits questions, and assist with the claim process. The CNMI Military/Veterans Affairs Office is located at 1364 Anatahan Dr., Capital Hill, Saipan. If you have questions, contact Bernadita Dela Cruz at (670) 664-2650/2651. (PR)

MHS back gate to be used

Marinas High School said the back entrance gate (Texas Road) will be opened for student drop off and pick up. Gates will be open for morning drop off during school days between 7:15am and 8:30am and after school pick up between 3:15pm and 4:30pm. When using back entrance gate, parents are to make the first right turn upon entering the back gate. This will bring you to a loop around the gym where you can drop or pick up students. A guard will be present to direct traffic. (PR)

Survivors, caregivers support meeting

today

All people facing cancer, their family members, and caregivers are invited to the Commonwealth Cancer Association monthly support meeting today, Aug. 16, 2018, starting at 5:30pm at the Hyatt Regency Saipan's Chamolinian Room. Guest speaker for the meeting will be Dr. William Moss, ENT specialist at the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. To RSVP or for more information, call the CCA at 682-0050 or email at ccamarianas@gmail.com. (PR)

Public library closed on Aug. 25

The Joeten-Kiyu Public Library will be closed on Saturday, Aug. 25, 2018, in celebration of CNMI Labor Day. The library will re-open with regular hours on Tuesday, Aug. 28, 2018. For the latest news and events, visit the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library's website at www.cnmilib.org and like and/or follow JKPL's Facebook page, @joeten kiyu. Follow us on Instagram @joeten-kiyu. The library's hours of operation are as follows: from Tuesday to Friday, from 10am to 6pm; Saturday, from 9am to 4pm; and closed Sundays, Mondays and holidays. (PR)



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Opinion

Hafa Adair

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

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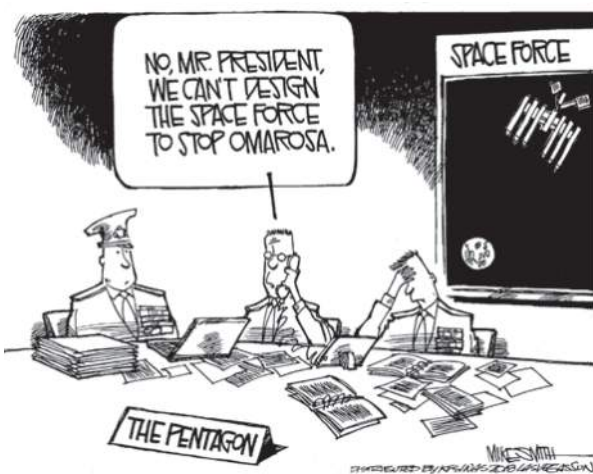
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AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Don't transform space into a realm of human conflict



One of humanity's greatest achievements was to go from a teetering aircraft at Kitty Hawk to a man on the moon in just a few decades. For most of that time and since, space has been a place of exploration, wonder, and yes, the serious and expensive nationalistic space race. Not war.

President Donald Trump does not seem as enamored of our peaceful galactic achievements. Last week, Vice President Mike Pence announced the administration's intention to create a new branch of the military—a Space Force—as early as 2020.

Space Force proponents argue convincingly that countries already are angling to use space for strategic advantage. Modern warfare and so much else in contemporary life are guided by satellites orbiting the globe. It would be unwise to ignore necessary defenses. The Department of Defense already has members on that mission.

Defenses can always be improved. But it is disheartening to hear Trump and Pence talk of space as a “war-fighting” domain where “we must have American dominance.”

That's all well and good for an entertaining movie franchise or three. But peace in space is not a game. It has been the norm since we first darted past gravity, preventing heavenly exploration from becoming just another way for humans to rain down havoc upon one another. The peace is worth keeping.

(c)2018 Newsday



Stand up for US workers

Editor's Note: Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) submitted the following privileged statement for publication in the Congressional Record during the pro forma session of the U.S. House of Representatives on Aug. 14, 2018.

Mr. Speaker:
The recently announced decision to lay off “temporarily” hundreds of U.S. workers at the Imperial Pacific International casino construction site in the Northern Mariana Islands raises serious concerns about the use of foreign labor at this project. Pacific Rim, the contractor, announced the lay-off in July pending “contract renegotiations.” Meanwhile, work will go on, using foreign workers with H-2B visas to replace the U.S. workers.

Even half-finished, the Imperial Pacific International casino has lifted the economy of the Marianas. So, local news has focused on reassuring the public that work to complete the casino and its associated resort would continue. But these reassurances mean little to the U.S. workers who have lost their jobs, or to their families.

It also raises the question of why the U.S. Department of Labor, as it has reported to me, issued 1,668 foreign labor certifications to Imperial Pacific International to hire the H-2B visa holders, who are now taking the jobs of U.S. workers in apparent contravention of U.S. labor law.

Labor issued these foreign labor certifications to Imperial Pacific International despite the history of occupational safety and health and wage and hour violations that the department previously uncovered at this job site.

In May 2017, after a worker fell to his death and multiple other, serious workplace injuries were treated at the local hospital, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration proposed \$193,750 in penalties for three of IPI's construction subcontractors.

In March 2018, the department finalized settlements with IPI subcontractors of \$13.9 million for unpaid wages and liquidated damages owed to over 2,400 employees.

In addition to these violations of the Occupational Safety and Health Act and the Fair Labor Standards Act, a raid of the site by the Federal Bureau of Investigation also revealed that the subcontractors had been unlawfully employing persons who were

By GREGORIO KILILI C. SABLAN

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan is the delegate of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.



admitted to the United States from China as tourists.

This record in itself should have raised red flags at the U.S. Department of Labor. But the underlying purpose and process for foreign labor certification seems also in this case to have been subverted.

In order to obtain foreign labor certifications, which are a prerequisite to applying for an H-2B visa, an employer must attest that the job in question will be offered to any qualified and available U.S. worker who applies or is referred for the job opportunity. And in order to obtain an H-2B visa, an employer must attest that they have not laid off and will not lay off any similarly employed U.S. worker, unless the layoff is for lawful, job-related reasons and unless all H-2B workers are laid off first. The present lay-offs of U.S. workers, while work continues using H-2B workers, cannot be consistent with these employer attestations.

Let us look at the history of the Imperial Pacific International worksite:

In fiscal year 2016 the Marianas experienced a labor crisis, when the annual, numerical cap was reached for the Commonwealth Only Transitional Worker (CW) program. For the first time the Department of Homeland Security stopped accepting applications for this foreign labor program, unique to the Marianas. As the Government Accountability Office explained in a 2017 report commissioned by Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee Chairman Lisa Murkowski, Ranking Member Maria Cantwell, and I:

Demand for foreign workers in the CNMI exceeded the available number of CW-1 permits in 2016—many approved for workers from China and workers in construction occupations.

See STAND on Next Page

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

ESGR's mission is the community's mission: We all serve

By JOHN R.B. BELL
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Our local and military communities in Guam and the CNMI have a long history of mutual sacrifice and support with regard to what is a substantial military presence. The Guam-CNMI committee of the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve, or ESGR, appreciates the community's continued support. Regardless of whether you or a loved one have served part time in a reserve component or active duty military, the entire community both shares the burdens and enjoys the benefits of our local Guard and Reserve units.

ESGR is a Department of Defense volunteer organization established in 1972. Its mission includes educating both service members and their civilian employers on their respective rights and responsibilities under the Uniformed Services Employ-

ment and Reemployment Rights Act of 1994, or USERRA. USERRA is a federal law intended to ensure that individuals who serve or have served in the Armed Forces, Reserve, National Guard, or other uniformed services: (1) are not disadvantaged in their civilian careers because of their service; (2) are promptly reemployed in their civilian jobs upon their return from military duty; and (3) are not discriminated against in employment based on past, present, or future military service. The law is intended to encourage non-career uniformed service so the United States can enjoy the protection of those Services, staffed by qualified people, while maintaining a balance with the needs of private and public employers who also depend on these same individuals.

As part of this effort, ESGR helps resolve issues or conflicts between employers and service members before they escalate through free mediation services. ESGR facilitates an extensive

awards program for supportive employers whose service-member employees have nominated them for recognition of their sacrifices. Other outreach activities include "Bosslifts," which are unique and exciting opportunities for employers to get a first-hand look at the military training and equipment utilized by their service-member employees.

The sacrifices of service-members and their families in ensuring the safety and stability of our local community is an issue that transcends politics. Since the end of the Vietnam era, our communities have benefitted from an all-volunteer military without resorting to a draft. Since the infamous coordinated terrorist attacks on Sept. 11, 2001, which motivated the Global War on Terrorism, the demands on service-members and their civilian employers have increased dramatically.

As taxpayers, we enjoy the additional protection of Guard and Reserve units in a manner which is more cost-effective than their full-time counterparts. For their part, local employers gain the benefit of service-member employees who have unique organizational and leadership skills, and who are self-disciplined, physically fit, and drug-free.

Still, our Guard and Reserve members, for all their sacrifice, face an unemployment rate of 13 percent. ESGR partners with local and national organizations to improve service-member employability and placement. Supportive employers are critical to maintaining the strength and readiness of the Nation's Guard and Reserve units. Service-members who are secure in their civilian work and family life are more able to focus on the missions at hand.

Our local Guard and Reserve units provide unique opportunities for our men and women to benefit from financial assistance in their education, to develop their professional skills, to provide for their families, and to support their communities as a whole, often while remaining stationed locally. So cheer them on, appreciate the support of the service-members and their families, and encourage local employers to hire and support these brave men and women. Because, in the end, we all serve.

John R.B. Bell is a past director of Military Outreach of the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Nearly there

It has been almost four years since the Legislature started on this journey to legalize marijuana and we can now see the light at the end of the tunnel. I am sure the entire CNMI will be watching and waiting to see what the Senate is going to do. I know the proponents for legalization don't want this bill to become a political football so hopefully the Senate will agree with the House version and pass it for the governor to sign. The great thing is the governor has already said he is willing to sign a bill if our Legislature can come to an agreement.

I just hope that the Legislature will also fix the other glitches in the Bill where it violates equal opportunity law in the hiring of the director, the need to address start-up funding, and the need to segregate and disburse revenues separately from the local budget that need to be addressed by law and not by the commission's policy. These are oversights that need to be fixed.

Legalization is surely coming soon, so those who truly want to be part of the two industries really need to start doing their homework and making their plans. Remember, the early birds always get all the worms, so don't procrastinate. Growers, you need to start developing strains like I have been telling you ever since the first Senate hearing four years ago. All marijuana sold in dispensaries are clones of the original plant. If you are not cloning, you will not be able to sell anything. Black market growers need to be aware because the price and quality of the marijuana in the dispensaries will be cheaper with a better quality than what is presently being sold on the streets. Your best bet is to prepare yourself to be a legal cultivator as you will make far more money with mass production than you can ever make from street sales. Simply put, the black market won't be worth it anymore as people are just going to go to the dispensary where it's safer, cheaper and better quality.

Ambrose M. Bennett
Kagman, Saipan

STAND

From Page 10

The construction of a new casino in Saipan is a key factor in this demand.

In fact, GAO reported, the demand for foreign workers jumped from 9,188 in 2014 to a number exceeding the 2016 cap of 13,299, almost entirely because of the demand for construction workers. The result was to crowd out established, local businesses, who employed CW workers and to force long-time foreign workers, who had demonstrated value to our economy and established roots in our community, to return home.

Not only was this crush of construction workers at the casino site economically and socially disruptive, it also did not jibe with the rules for the CW program. CW permits are only available to employers of foreign workers who are ineligible for any other U.S. work visa. Although some of the casino construction workers held CW permits (and some were employed illegally, having entered as tourists), we now know that these workers could well have received H-2B visas. Because, as the U.S. Department of Labor has reported, it issued 1,668 H-2B foreign labor certifications to IPI.

To end further abuse of the CW program and to protect the interests of local businesses in my district and their long-term workers and their families, I introduced legislation that, among other provisions, prohibited any further use of CW permits for new construction workers in the Marianas. Chairman Murkowski observed at her committee's hearing on my bill, H.R. 339, that this bar on the use of CW permits for new construction workers was in her view the most important provision. Not only did it curb the abuse of the CW permit, but it was also meant to force the federal government to make the determination, through the foreign labor certification process, of whether U.S. workers were available for any construction jobs on offer. President Trump signed my bill into law in August 2017. It became U.S. Public Law 115-53.

IPI quickly responded to these new constraints by hiring Pa-

cific Rim, a U.S.-based firm, to continue construction of the casino. And Pacific Rim president and owner Keith Stewart announced to the *Guam Daily Post* that he was looking to hire hundreds of skilled U.S. tradesmen for the work. Edward DeLeon Guerrero, executive director of the Commonwealth Casino Commission, reacted positively to this news in an interview with KSPN-TV in January 2018.

Reporter: IPI is currently in contractual conversations with a new construction company, Pacific Rim, to finish the resort.

Guerrero: We are more confident when we are dealing with a U.S. construction company.

Reporter: IPI's previous, Chinese-based construction companies brought in illegal construction workers and ultimately caused progress on the building to come to a standstill, once the FBI realized what was going on. Guerrero hopes to avoid, quote, 'another fiasco like that from happening again.'

Guerrero: Definitely do not want to see a repeat of that.

Reporter: This time around, however, the work will be done with mostly U.S.-based workers.

Guerrero: It is my understanding that all, I mean, most, if not all of the workers, are U.S. construction workers.

In March, Pacific Rim held a job fair in Guam, which drew enthusiastic response from U.S. workers, who expressed a willingness to move to Saipan for new work opportunities and the chance to earn overtime and per diem, in addition to their regular pay. At the fair Pacific Rim general superintendent Tony Costa confirmed to the *Post* that his company wanted to have around 500 U.S. workers on the IPI site.

Marianas Gov. Ralph Torres even testified with pride before the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee on Feb. 16 of this year about the turnaround: "I'm proud to announce that because of learning of an issue that was experienced last year, we have signed U.S. contractors to finish the hotel of the casino that was signed, I believe, less than a month ago that will be hiring more U.S. workers to finish the construction of the hotel site."

The governor also said IPI intended to complete construction

by August 2018 and assured the committee that his administration was closely monitoring labor conditions at the site. It should be noted, too, that the original casino license agreement included the stated objective to have permanent U.S. residents be at least 65 percent of all employees—an objective that has not been met.

The governor's testimony came at the hearing held to consider the Northern Mariana Islands U.S. Workforce Act, legislation that Chairman Murkowski and I had jointly introduced to incentivize the hiring of U.S. workers in the Marianas. President Trump signed the Act into law on July 24. Among other new protections for U.S. workers, Public Law 115-218 extends to the CW program the requirement for prior U.S. Department of Labor certifications, a stipulation the governor, the Marianas Legislature, and our business community all rightly agreed to.

Despite all these efforts and assurances to U.S. workers, however, at the same time IPI had begun the process of applying for foreign labor certifications from the U.S. Department of Labor with the intent to secure H-2B visas and hire foreign construction workers. Nominally, these foreign workers were to buttress, not replace Pacific Rim's U.S. workforce. Instead, U.S. workers have now lost their jobs, replaced by foreign workers. Attestations to the U.S. Department of Labor that U.S. workers would not be laid off and replaced with foreign workers have not proven true. Assurances by the governor to keep watch on the Imperial Pacific job site seem hollow in light of recent events.






This must stop.

The people of the Northern Mariana Islands, whom I represent, are tired of having outside, foreign interests time after time give our islands a black eye by skirting the law, cutting corners on safety, playing fast and loose with the rules and thinking they can get away with it, beholden only to their bottom line and a handful of high-ranking local officials.

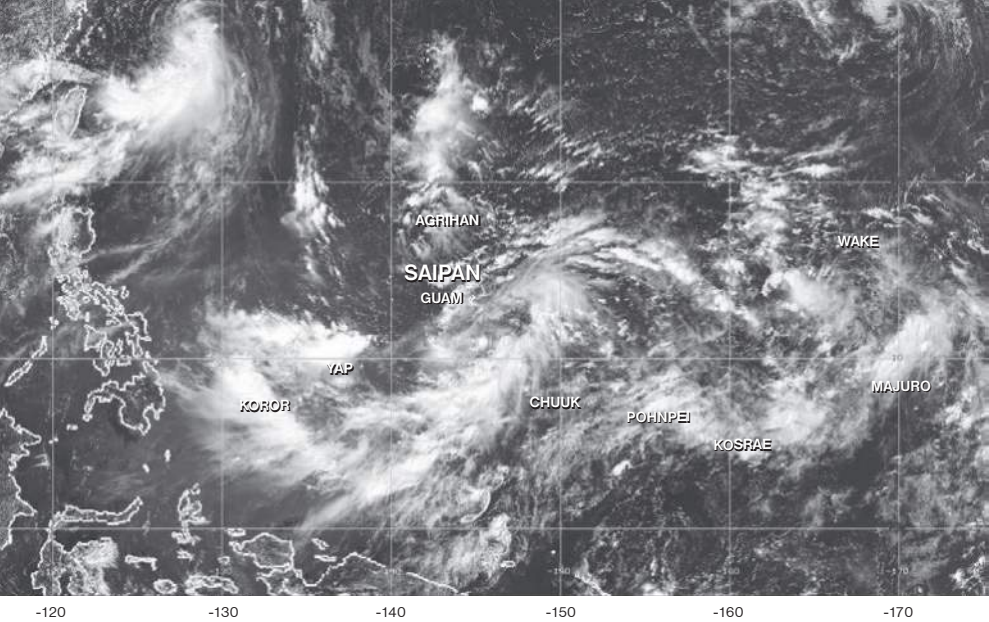
The U.S. Department of Labor, after enabling IPI by granting 1,668 foreign labor certifications, must take immediate action to step up enforcement and ensure IPI maintains absolute compliance with U.S. law.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
				
Partly sunny and breezy with isolated showers and thunderstorms. South winds 15 to 25 mph.	Mostly cloudy and breezy with isolated showers and thunderstorms. South winds 15 to 25 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms.	Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms.
▲ 88° ▼ 78°	▲ 88° ▼ 78°	▲ 88° ▼ 78°	▲ 88° ▼ 78°	▲ 88° ▼ 78°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 9:10 AM, WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 15, 2018
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

The Marianas will be on the northern edge of the circulation which is developing to our south. We are expecting increased showers and some breezy conditions, nothing more than that at this time. After the winds subside, the showers will too, then we may have another bump in shower activity around the weekend. Put it in the forecast starting Monday when the ECMWF-HiRes and the GFS are in good agreement, it should be noted though that the GFS brings the showers in Saturday afternoon. Therefore, the time horizon for scattered showers could be pulled in earlier.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA ▲ ▼ °F		
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorm	86° / 80°
Palau	Thunderstorm	83° / 79°
Yap	Thunderstorm	85° / 80°
Chuuk	Partly Cloudy	87° / 80°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorm	87° / 77°
Kosrae	Thunderstorm	87° / 77°
Majuro	Thunderstorm	86° / 82°

AROUND THE GLOBE ▲ ▼ °F		
Auckland	Showers	61° / 50°
Beijing	Showers	84° / 72°
Hong Kong	Thunderstorm	88° / 81°
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	89° / 77°
London	Rain	66° / 52°
Los Angeles	Sunny	85° / 69°
Manila	Thunderstorm	84° / 79°
Melbourne	Mostly Sunny	61° / 46°
Miami	Mostly Sunny	87° / 81°
New York	Sunny	92° / 76°
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	82° / 70°
Paris	Mostly Sunny	88° / 59°
Busan	Windy	82° / 75°
Rome	Thunderstorm	86° / 68°
Salem	Thunderstorm	89° / 72°
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	63° / 52°
Seoul	Mostly Sunny	90° / 68°
Tokyo	Showers	81° / 68°
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	92° / 76°



NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY FEET		
5:36 AM	LOW TIDE	0.51
11:09 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.72
5:37 PM	LOW TIDE	0.39
11:44 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.91

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:02 AM	6:40 PM
Friday	6:02 AM	6:39 PM
Saturday	6:02 AM	6:38 PM
Sunday	6:02 AM	6:38 PM
Monday	6:03 AM	6:37 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	10:26 AM	10:35 PM	-
Friday	11:19 AM	11:18 PM	-
Saturday	12:12 AM	-	-
Sunday	-	12:02 AM	1:03 PM
Monday	-	12:46 AM	1:54 PM

NEWS DESK

For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JUNE 6, 2018

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA117	8:45am	9:30am	Daily	UA117	7:00am	7:45am	Daily
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)				BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN			
7C3451	3:10am	6:10am	1, 7	7C3452	9:00pm	2:10am+1	4
7C3451	4:00am	7:05am	4, 5	7C3452	9:05pm	2:10am+1	3, 6, 7
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)				SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
TW308	2:00am	6:05am	Daily	7C3402	9:30am	3:00pm	Daily
OZ626	2:10am	6:00am	1	OZ625	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
OZ626	2:50am	6:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	TW307	7:45pm	1:00am+1	Daily
LJ652	3:40am	7:30am	1, 4, 5, 7	OZ625	8:20pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
7C3403	4:45am	8:30am	Daily	LJ651	9:10pm	2:40am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
7C3401	4:00pm	7:45pm	Daily	7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	Daily
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)				SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN			
3U8648	5:40am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7	3U8647	10:20pm	4:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (HGH)				HANGZHOU (HGH)-SAIPAN			
JD396	7:30am	12:00pm	1	JD395	8:25am	3:30pm	4
JD396	4:50pm	10:00pm	4	JD395	9:55pm	5:00am+1	7
SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)				GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN			
3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6	3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5
SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)				BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN			
MU764	1:30am	6:35am	3, 5, 7	MU763	4:25pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
OZ626/701	2:10am	10:55am	1 via ICN	UA182/6395	12:40am	8:05am	3, 6 via GUM
OZ626/701	2:50am	10:55am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	UA190/6397	9:55am	5:35pm	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
UA6394/191	4:15am	9:00am	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM	OZ702/625	12:25pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
UA6394/PR111	4:15am	8:10am	7 via GUM	OZ702/625	12:25pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA6394/PR111	4:15am	9:20am	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via GUM	PR110/UA6395	10:05pm	8:05am+1	Daily via GUM
UA6398/183	6:05pm	9:40pm	2, 5 via GUM	UA192/6395	10:30pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via ROR-GUM
UA6398/183	6:05pm	9:50pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM	UA184/6395	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA6398/193	6:05pm	11:50pm	2, 5 via GUM-ROR				
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)				HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN			
HX077	1:50am	5:15am	1, 4	OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN	OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	HX076	5:15pm	12:15am+1	3, 7
U043	5:45am	8:40am	1, 3, 5, 7	U042	6:50pm	1:45am+1	7
UA6398/159	6:05pm	11:00pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM	U042	9:30pm	4:25am+1	2, 4, 6
				UA116/6395	11:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, JD Beijing Capital, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, LJ Jin Air, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, PR PAL Express; ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.			
SAIPAN TO ROTA			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301	7:30AM	8:00AM	Daily
1302	11:30AM	12:00PM	Daily
1303	4:00PM	4:30PM	Daily
ROTA TO SAIPAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3101	8:15AM	8:45AM	Daily
3102	1:45PM	2:15PM	Daily
3103	4:45PM	5:15PM	Daily
ROTA TO GUAM			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15PM	12:45PM	Daily
GUAM TO ROTA			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
4301	1:00PM	1:30PM	Daily
SAIPAN TO TINIAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
1202	8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
1203	9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2102	7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
2103	8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
2104	9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
2105	10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
2106	11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
2107	12:30PM	12:45PM	Daily
2108	1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2109	2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
2110	3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
2111	4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
2112	5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
2113	6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily



The U.S. Air Force pilots and crew pose with airmen from the Guam Air National Guard's 254th Red Horse Squadron, and Tinian Airport staff, after arriving on Tinian last week to begin repairs at the Tinian Health Clinic.
MASTER. SGT. JEAN CHABANNE

The Tinian Mayor's Office is partnering with the Innovative Readiness Training program to renovate and improve its health clinic, the only medical facility on the island that caters to its residents.

More than 20 airmen from the Guam Air National Guard's 254th Red Horse Squadron arrived on Tinian last week to begin the project, which will result in more than 100 hours of hands-on engineering, demolition, construction, electrical, mechanical, plumbing, and Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning training for the airmen.

The mission is expected to be completed in about three to four weeks.

The Rapid Engineer Deployable Heavy Operation Repair Squadron, Engineer, or RED HORSE, is the U.S. Air Force's heavy-construction unit. Their capabilities are similar to those of the U.S. Navy Seabees and U.S. Army engineering units.

"The IRT program is a unique way for the airmen to train in our military occupations," said Capt. Jason Cruz, 254RHS Project officer-in-charge. "This partnership between the welcoming community and the military has been a win-win for us all. The military is able to fulfill the need

Guam Guard airmen, Tinian Mayor's Office partner to repair health clinic

» Civil-military partnership program comes to Tinian



Airmen from the Guam Air National Guard's 254th Red Horse Squadron, pose for a photo with Tinian Mayor Joey San Nicolas after discussing the upcoming project, which is part of an Innovative Readiness Training Program.
MASTER. SGT. JEAN CHABANNE



Airmen from the Guam Air National Guard's 254th Red Horse Squadron pose for a photo with Tinian Mayor Joey San Nicolas and staff of the Tinian Health Clinic prior to beginning renovations as part of an Innovative Readiness Training Program.
MASTER. SGT. JEAN CHABANNE

of a deserving mission, all the while receiving critical training for our readiness."

Immediately upon arrival on the island, Vicente King, Public Health program coordinator, and Rodney S. Cabarles, acting resident director, provided a site tour and explained the various projects that were approved to be performed at the Tinian Health Center.

"I am very excited about this joint venture and the cooperation between our organizations," said Tinian Mayor Joey P. San Nicolas. "I am hoping that this is just the beginning and there will be more to come for the people of Tinian. It shows that there is a strong partnership with the military and the local government. We are very supportive of this IRT program and happy that the Guam National Guard is here to assist us with these infrastructure improvements and look forward to more in the future."

IRT is a U.S. Department of Defense training opportunity, exclusive to the United States and its territories, that delivers a platform for military service members to conduct real-world, hands-on training while providing key services with lasting benefits to American communities. Visit IRT.defense.gov to learn more about IRT, or to apply for a mission. (PR)



Rodney Cabarles, acting resident director, Tinian Health Clinic, right; and Vicente King, Public Health program coordinator, second from right, show Maj. Josephine Blas, public affairs officer, Guam National Guard, third from right, and Master Sgt. Matthew Cepeda, at left, noncommissioned officer-in-charge of the Guam Air National Guard's 254th Red Horse Squadron, where a sink will be added in the emergency room of the Tinian Health Clinic.
MASTER. SGT. JEAN CHABANNE



Rodney Cabarles, acting resident director, Tinian Health Clinic, left; Ignacio Kiyoshi, military liaison, Tinian Mayor's Office, second from left; and Vicente King, Public Health program coordinator, second from right, discuss the expansion of the current helicopter pad outside the clinic with Master Sgt. Matthew Cepeda, at center, noncommissioned officer-in-charge of the Guam Air National Guard's 254th Red Horse Squadron, which will be performing the renovations, and Maj. Josephine Blas, public affairs officer, Guam National Guard, at right.
MASTER. SGT. JEAN CHABANNE

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\$2⁹⁵



EMOJI STICKER
\$10⁹⁵



EMOJI STICKER
\$10⁹⁵



SPORTSPOWER GROVERPARK 6PLAY SWING SET
\$189⁹⁵



PACIFIC EVOLUTION 24" BOYS BIKE
\$139⁹⁵



PROPEL 12FT TRAMPOLINE
\$259⁹⁵



WILSON NCAA BASKETBALL
\$27⁹⁵



GUITAR
\$29⁹⁵



PAC-IT FRESH 500Z FOOD CONTAINER
\$2⁹⁵



HOME BASIC HAMBURGER PRESS
\$7⁹⁵



CRAFTSMAN PREMIUM 100FT RUBBER GARDEN HOSE
\$59⁹⁵



WEEDEATER GAS BLOWER
\$129⁹⁵



EMOJI STICKER
\$10⁹⁵



EMOJI STICKER
\$10⁹⁵



EMOJI STICKER
\$10⁹⁵

DEAL OF THE WEEK

YETI 300Z TUMBLER

\$8⁹⁵



YETI 300Z RAMBLER
KEEPS YOUR DRINK AS COLD AS SCIENCE ALLOWS



WILSON NCAA BASKETBALL
\$27⁹⁵



GUITAR
\$29⁹⁵



PAC-IT FRESH 500Z FOOD CONTAINER
\$2⁹⁵



HOME BASIC HAMBURGER PRESS
\$7⁹⁵



CRAFTSMAN PREMIUM 100FT RUBBER GARDEN HOSE
\$59⁹⁵



WEEDEATER GAS BLOWER
\$129⁹⁵



EMOJI STICKER
\$10⁹⁵



EMOJI STICKER
\$10⁹⁵

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MAJOR CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED

Agri Fair showcases NMC-CREES program



Dr. Ignacio Dela Cruz, president of the Saipan Agricultural Fair Association, gives his welcoming remarks to the farmers, ranchers, and participating community members at the 35th Saipan Agricultural Fair that was held last Saturday, Aug. 4, 2018, at the Guma Sakman Community Center.

NMC PHOTOS

Despite the rainy weather, last week's Saipan Agricultural Fair sponsored by the Saipan Agricultural Fair Association drew many attendees.

The event was also supported by the Office of the Governor, the Department of Land and Natural Resources, Northern Marianas College-Cooperative Research Extension and Education Service, Office of Youth Affairs, 4-H Marianas and other organizations.

In addition to the livestock and plant competitions, staff members from NMC-CREES also handed out seedlings, hosted a mini-gardening activity for kids, displayed farm equipment and tools, and talked to farmers about cover crops and organic pesticides. CREES' Aquaculture program also displayed the rabbitfish raised used for research and distribution. (NMC)



NMC-CREES, in collaboration with 4-H Marianas and the University of Guam, provides information on healthy foods and eating habits at the 35th Saipan Agricultural Fair.



NMC-CREES engaged the CNMI's youth by hosting a mini-gardening activity where children planted their own tomatoes to take home and raise.



Local ranchers display their prize-winning livestock at the 35th Saipan Agriculture Fair held at the Guma Sakman community center on Saturday, Aug. 4, 2018.



NMC-CREES offered free eggplants, bok choy, swiss chard, and neem seedlings as giveaways at the Saipan Agricultural Fair on Aug. 4, 2018, at the Guma Sakman Community Center.



NMC-CREES welcomed all community members to take pictures with the tractors used for agricultural research during Saipan's 35th Agricultural Fair.



Many farmers sold and displayed their freshest produce during the annual Agricultural Fair held at the Guma Sakman community center.



Dr. Ross Miller from the University of Guam displays and presents the biological, mechanical, and physical pest control measures for the CNMI's agricultural farmland during Saipan's annual Agricultural Fair.



Agriculture production extension agent Arnold Route shared information with Saipan Agricultural Fair participants on the current fruits and vegetables being grown at NMC-CREES's As Perdido farm. All of the produce grown at the farm are to test the foreign seedlings compatibility with the CNMI's farmland and to share the research with local farmers and community members.



Aquaculture extension agents Mike Ogo, first from right, and Petrus Faimau, second from right, display a few of their rabbitfish used for research during Saipan's 35th Agriculture Fair.



Local farmers were happy to show off their produce at Saipan's annual Agricultural Fair held at the Guma Sakman community center.

Business

Turkey raises tariffs on some US imports

ANKARA, Turkey (AP)—Turkey announced Wednesday it is increasing tariffs on imports of certain U.S. products, escalating a feud with the United States that has helped trigger a currency crisis.

In a decision announced in the Official Gazette, Ankara said it was imposing extra tariffs on imports of products including rice, vehicles, alcohol, coal and cosmetics.

Turkey's Vice President Fuat Oktay said on Twitter that the tariffs on certain products were increased "within the framework of the principle of reciprocity in retaliation for the conscious economic attacks by the United States."

The Turkish lira has dropped to record lows in recent weeks, having fallen some 42 percent so far this year. The currency has now stabilized at around 6.50 lira against the dollar.

Investors are worried not only about Turkey's souring relations with the U.S., a longtime NATO ally, but also Turkish President Recep



People line up at a currency exchange shop in Istanbul, Tuesday, Aug. 14, 2018. AP

Tayyip Erdogan's economic policies and the country's high debt accumulated in foreign currencies.

Turkey has accused the United States of waging an "economic war" as part of a plot to harm the country.

Washington has imposed financial sanctions on two Turkish ministers and doubled steel and aluminum tariffs on Turkey, as U.S. President Donald Trump tries to secure

the release Andrew Brunson, an American pastor being tried in Turkey on espionage and terrorism-related charges.

The decision to impose new tariffs came a day after Erdogan said Turkey would boycott U.S. electronic goods, singling out iPhones. He suggested Turks would buy local or Korean phones instead, although it was unclear how he intended to enforce the boycott.

Using common social media tactics to subvert US elections

NEW YORK (AP)—The latest efforts to disrupt the U.S. midterm elections through Facebook manipulation seem to be following a persuasion playbook refined by legitimate companies and organizations—but with a twist.

The aim of these possibly Russia-linked perpetrators appears to be to draw in as many people as possible with emotional appeals and then spur them to action. In this case, though, the action is public protest rather than affinity marketing, and the goal is to sow dissension rather than to build brand awareness.

"They're almost functioning like social media editors, figuring out what the trending topics are in the U.S. and figuring out where they can insert themselves," said Jennifer Grygiel, a communications professor at Syracuse University.

The idea, experts say, is to widen the rifts in the U.S. population via propaganda that is less about winning hearts and minds and much more about setting Americans against one another.

The removed pages share "moralistic language" and appeal to emotions, said Jay Van Bavel, a New York Univer-

sity psychology professor who studies group identity. "The conflict already existed but they're stirring it up, picking at a scab."

David Stewart, a marketing and business law professor at Loyola Marymount University, said those behind the scheme are trying to create an "us versus them" mentality, without which Facebook users might not be so polarized.

Groups tied to the Russian government have been trying to meddle in U.S. politics since at least the 2016 elections. In February, the Justice Department charged 13 Russians and three companies with plotting to aid Donald Trump's presidential campaign through fake Facebook posts, ads and groups.

More recently, Facebook said it had removed 32 apparently fake accounts and pages on Facebook and Instagram created by "bad actors" involved in what Facebook calls inauthentic political behavior ahead of the U.S. midterms. Although Facebook didn't specifically say Russians were behind the latest efforts, the reported activity shared many similarities with Russian influence campaigns during the 2016 presidential election.

It isn't clear how well the efforts worked or if they have swayed the outcome of elections, either in 2016 or this time around. Sowing discord, however, could prompt people to stay home instead of voting—or to vote for more extreme candidates who support their view, experts say. Discord could also lead to real-world violence and conflict.

During the 2016 elections, Russian agents bought a slew of issue-based ads to push arguments for and against immigration, gun rights and other issues. Many of them attempted to stoke racial divisions by mentioning police brutality or disparaging the Black Lives Matter movement.

Russian agents took advantage of the same tools available to businesses and groups to target messages with precision. One video parodying Trump was targeted at blacks who also were interested in BlackNews.com, HuffPost Politics or HuffPost Black Voices, for instance.

This time around, the efforts seem more focused on calling people to participate in protests and take action, at least based on the limited information provided by Facebook so far.

Nation

Colyer concedes Republican primary to secretary of state

WICHITA, Kan. (AP)—Kansas Gov. Jeff Colyer conceded Tuesday evening in the state's Republican gubernatorial primary, saying he will endorse Secretary of State Kris Kobach a week after their neck-and-neck finish threatened to send the race to a recount.

Colyer accepted defeat in a surprise announcement after a review of some provisional ballots from most Kansas counties failed to find enough votes for him to overcome a deficit of 110 votes at the time of poll closing in the Aug. 7 primary, out of more than 311,000 votes initially counted. Kobach, who was endorsed by President Donald Trump, has seen his lead widen as the counting of provisional ballots continues into next week across the state.

"I've just had a conversation with the secretary of state and congratulated him on his success and repeated my determination to keep this seat in Republican hands," Colyer said. "This election may be the closest in America. But the numbers are not there."

Kobach, 52, has a national conservative following thanks to his strong stance against illegal immigration and his fervent defense of voter ID laws. He was vice chairman of the Trump administration's election-fraud commission, though the commission eventu-

ally found no evidence to support Trump's claims of widespread voter fraud in the 2016 presidential election. Kobach's voter fraud efforts also took a hit in June when a fed-

eral judge found the proof-of-citizenship voter registration law he championed was unconstitutional.

Colyer, by contrast, is far more low-key. The 58-year-old plastic surgeon from suburban Kansas City served as lieutenant governor for seven years and took over as governor in January when Sam Brownback resigned to become ambassador-at-large for international religious freedom.

Kobach has been a lightning rod for controversy, and some Democrats believe their party has a better chance to capture the governor's seat with him as their Republican opponent instead of Colyer.

"Never in modern Kansas history has any major party's nominee for governor been viewed as poorly by everyday Kansans than Kris Kobach," said Ethan Corson, the executive director of the Kansas Democratic Party. "As the drawn-out Republican primary shows, even a significant number of Republican primary voters had and likely still have deep misgivings about the person now at the top of the GOP ticket."

Kobach will face Demo-



Colyer

crat Laura Kelly, and is likely to face independent candidate Greg Orman, in the November general election in the decidedly conservative state. The bid from Orman,

a Kansas City-area businessman who has launched what could become the most serious independent candidacy for governor since the 1930s, complicates Democrats' efforts to recapture the governor's office.

In a statement after Colyer's announcement, Kelly said Kansas families already suffered enough under former Gov. Brownback and that the state doesn't need someone like Kobach who has pledged to bring back the same policies.

"With Kris Kobach as Governor, Kansans get all the failed policies of Sam Brownback plus Kobach's unique brand of hyper-partisanship and self-promotion," Kelly said. "Quite simply, Kris Kobach is Sam Brownback on steroids, and that's the last thing that Kansans need right now."

Before becoming governor, Colyer was a loyal No. 2 to Brownback, even when budget problems that followed Brownback's aggressive income tax cuts caused his approval levels to plummet. Lawmakers in 2017 rolled back most of those cuts.

Report: Pennsylvania priests molested over 1,000 children

HARRISBURG, Pa. (AP)—Hundreds of Roman Catholic priests in Pennsylvania molested more than 1,000 children—and possibly many more—since the 1940s, and senior church officials, including a man who is now the archbishop of Washington, D.C., systematically covered up the abuse, according to a grand jury report released Tuesday.

The "real number" of abused children might be in the thousands since some secret church records were lost, and victims were afraid to come forward, the grand jury said.

"Priests were raping little boys and girls, and the men of God who were responsible for them not only did nothing. They hid it all," Attorney General Josh Shapiro said at a news conference in Harrisburg.

The report put the number of abusive clergy at more than 300. In nearly all of the cases, the statute of limitations has run out, meaning that criminal charges cannot be filed. More than 100 of the priests are dead, and many others are retired or have been dismissed from the priesthood or put on leave.

"We are sick over all the crimes that will go unpunished and uncompensated," the grand jury said.

Authorities evaluated each suspect and were able to charge just two, including a priest who has since pleaded guilty. Shapiro said the investigation is ongoing.

Church officials "routinely and purposefully described the abuse as horseplay and wrestling" and simply "inappropriate conduct," Shapiro said.

"It was none of those things. It was child sexual abuse, including rape," he said.

The grand jury accused Cardinal Donald Wuerl, who leads the Washington archdiocese, of helping to protect abusive priests when he was Pittsburgh's bishop. Wuerl, who led the Pittsburgh diocese from 1988 to 2006, disputed the allegations.

"While I understand this report may be critical of some of my actions, I believe the report confirms that I acted with diligence, with concern for the victims and to prevent future acts of abuse," he said in a statement. "I sincerely hope that a just assessment of my actions, past and present, and my continuing commitment to the protection of children will dispel any notions otherwise made by this report."

Asia

Duterte: China should temper its behavior in disputed waters

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—The Philippine president said Tuesday that China's claim to airspace above newly built islands and surrounding waters in the disputed South China Sea "is wrong" and Beijing should not tell others to leave those areas to avoid possible clashes.

President Rodrigo Duterte's remarks in a speech to an audience that included the American ambassador and other foreign guests were a rare public criticism of China, which he has refused to antagonize to nurture closer relations.

"They have to rethink that, because that would be a flash-point someday and even, you know, warning others," Duterte said of China's actions to uphold its claims in the disputed waters. "You cannot create an island, it's man-made, and you say that the air above these artificial islands is yours."

"That is wrong because those waters are what we consider international sea," the president said. He added that "the right of innocent passage is guaranteed. It does not need any permission to sail through the open seas."

The Associated Press reported two weeks ago that the Philippines has expressed concern to China over an increasing number of Chinese radio messages warning Philippine aircraft and ships to stay away



President Rodrigo Duterte reviews the police under a sudden downpour to mark the 117th Philippine National Police Service anniversary at Camp Crame in suburban Quezon city northeast of Manila, Philippines. Wednesday, Aug. 8, 2018.

from Beijing-held artificial islands in the disputed waters.

CNN reported last week that the Chinese military repeatedly warned a U.S. Navy P-8A Poseidon plane, which they were allowed to board, to "leave immediately and keep out to avoid any misunderstanding" while the reconnaissance aircraft flew close to some of the man-made islands.

"I hope that China would temper ... its behavior," Duterte said, warning that in the disputed sea, "one of these days a hothead commander there will just press a trigger."

During the rambling speech, Duterte nevertheless praised Beijing for its readiness to provide help.

A Philippine government report seen by the AP showed that in the second half of last year, Philippine military aircraft received Chinese radio warnings at least 46 times while patrolling near the artificial islands built by China in the South China Sea's Spratly archipelago.

Philippine officials have raised their concerns twice over the radio transmissions, including in a meeting with Chinese counterparts in Manila earlier this year that focused on the Asian countries' long-unresolved territorial disputes, according to two officials who spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to discuss the issue publicly.

Abe instead sent religious offerings to the shrine.

Modi says India will send manned flight into space by 2022

NEW DELHI (AP)—Prime Minister Narendra Modi says India will send a manned flight into space by 2022. The announcement came amid celebrations Wednesday of India's independence from British colonialists in 1947. Modi's speech was broadcast live to the nation from the historic Red Fort in New Delhi. Modi said India will become the fourth country after Russia, the United States and China to achieve the feat. The Indian astronaut could be a man or a woman. India a few days earlier had tested the space capsule that will transport the astronauts. In 1984, Rakesh Sharma was the first India to travel in space aboard a Soviet rocket. In 2014, India successfully put a satellite

into orbit around Mars.

Indonesia woman irked by mosque noise on trial for blasphemy

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP)—Indonesian prosecutors have demanded an 18-month prison term for a woman who was charged with blasphemy after she complained about the volume of a mosque's loudspeakers. The ethnic Chinese defendant, Meiliana, 44, was arrested on May 18, about two years after her case triggered a riot in Tanjung Balai, a port town in North Sumatra province. A spokesman at the local prosecutor's office, Sumangar Siagian, said Tuesday the sentencing demand for Meiliana was made at the District Court in Medan, the province's capital, on Monday. Prosecutors said the defendant had violated Indonesia's criminal code by committing blasphemy against Islam, the dominant faith in Indonesia.

World

Italian bridge collapse kills 26

MILAN (AP)—A 51-year-old highway bridge in the Italian port city of Genoa collapsed in a driving rain Tuesday, killing at least 26 people and injuring 15 others as it sent dozens of vehicles tumbling into a heap of concrete and twisted steel.

Italian Premier Giuseppe Conte called it "an immense tragedy ... inconceivable in a modern system like ours, a modern country."

The disaster, on a major interchange connecting Genoa and other northern cities with beaches in eastern Liguria into France, focused attention on Italy's aging infrastructure, particularly its concrete bridges and viaducts built in the postwar boom of the 1950s and 1960s.

What caused the Morandi Bridge to fall remained unknown, and prosecutors said they were opening an investigation but had not identified any targets. Transport Minister Danilo Toninelli said the collapse was "unacceptable" and that if negligence played a role "whoever made a mistake must pay."

Early speculation focused on the structural weakness of the span.

Witnesses reported hearing a roar as the 45-meter (nearly 150-foot) bridge collapsed in a torrential rain during midday traffic on the eve of a major holiday that sees most Italians abandoning cities for beaches and mountains.

One unidentified woman who was standing below told

RAI state TV that it crumbled as if it were a mound of baking flour. Video of the collapse, showing a misty scene of crumbled concrete, captured a man screaming: "Oh, God! Oh, God!"

Civil Protection authorities said at least 30 cars and three heavy vehicles were on the 80-meter (260-foot) section of the span that collapsed in the industrial area of warehouses.

A man who was standing under the bridge in front of his truck at the time of the collapse called it "a miracle" that he survived. The middle-aged man, who did not give his name, said the shockwave sent him flying over 10 meters (33 feet) into a wall, injuring his right shoulder and hip.

"I was in front of the truck and flew away, like everything else. Yes, I think it's a miracle. I don't know what to say. I'm out of words," he said, walking away from the site.

More than 300 rescue workers and canine crews were on the scene. They used heavy equipment and dogs to search for survivors in the rubble. At least four people were pulled alive from vehicles under the bridge, ANSA reported.

"Operations are ongoing to extract people imprisoned below parts of the bridge and twisted metal," said Angelo Borrelli, the head of Italy's civil protection agency.

Officials evacuated several hundred people living along the raised highway that traverses the city as a precaution.

The effort would continue

into the night.

"It is a bit like working on an earthquake," said firefighters spokesman Luca Cari. "The main difficulty is removing the rubble and safeguarding the rescue teams."

There was confusion over the death toll throughout the day, with different officials giving conflicting numbers.

Officials in the Liguria region said Tuesday night that 26 people had died, saying two more bodies had been found and one of the 16 injured had died in surgery.

After visiting the scene, Conte told RAI state TV the tragedy was "a serious wound for Genoa, Liguria and Italy."

The Italian CNR civil engineering society said that structures dating from when the Morandi Bridge was built had surpassed their lifespan. It called for a "Marshall Plan" to repair or replace tens of thousands of bridges and viaducts built in the 1950s and 1960s. Updating and reinforcing the bridges would be more expensive than destroying and rebuilding them with technology that could last a century.

They cited previous accidents: a bridge that fell in April 2017 in the northern province of Cuneo, crushing a carabinieri police car after the officers and driver had barely managed to get away in time; and an overpass that in the northern city of Lecco that collapsed under exceptional weight, crushing a car and killing the driver.

Official: Venezuelan general arrested in assassination plot

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)—The investigation into an assassination attempt on Venezuela's President Nicolas Maduro using drones has widened to include the arrest of two high-ranking military officers, the nation's top prosecutor said Tuesday.

The list of suspects—including an exiled opposition lawmaker—has now risen to 34, and officials are seeking arrests in Colombia, Peru and the United States, Attorney General Tarek William Saab said.

"There are 14 detainees who have been presented and charged before the criminal courts," he said.

That list of suspects and detainees has nearly doubled since last week, when authorities said they had eight of 19 suspects in custody.

Officials say an assassination plot involved two drones loaded with plastic

explosives that detonated near Maduro as he spoke Aug. 4 at a military celebration in the capital of Caracas.

The first explosion in front of the grandstand caused hundreds of soldiers standing in parade formation to scatter. Seven soldiers were injured, but Maduro and several senior officials nearby were unharmed.

The incident came at a time of political and economic crisis in Venezuela, a once-wealthy oil power that is suffering runaway inflation and shortages of food and medicine that have driven hundreds of thousands to flee abroad.

Saab identified the two detained officers as Col. Pedro Zambrano Hernandez and Gen. Alejandro Perez Gomez of the National Guard. He did not describe their suspected roles.

A 29-year-old opposition lawmaker, Juan Reque-

sens, is also under arrest and charged with treason and attempted homicide.

Officials have released a videotaped statement of Requesens that they say shows an admission, but he never appears to confess or mention the attack.

It shows Requesens telling investigators he helped prominent opposition lawmaker Julio Borges, who lives in Bogota, bring a man into Venezuela from Colombia.

Relatives of Requesens say he is jailed for being an outspoken critic of Maduro's government, but that he never participated in a crime.

Venezuelan officials have asked Colombia to extradite Borges, and Maduro has offered to show the FBI evidence in support of their case against exiled Venezuelans living in Miami suspected of financing the failed plot.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Japan's emperor makes last war-end anniversary speech

TOKYO (AP)—Japan's Emperor Akihito has expressed deep remorse over his country's role in World War II as he made his last appearance at a ceremony marking the end of the hostilities. The 84-year-old emperor made his final war-end anniversary speech before his abdication scheduled in April. He will be succeeded by his son, Crown Prince Naruhito. Akihito, attending Wednesday's 73rd anniversary of the end of the war at Tokyo's Budokan hall, expressed "the feelings of deep remorse" over the tragedy. He pledged to reflect on the wartime past and expressed hope that the tragedy should never be repeated. Prime Minister Shinzo Abe stayed away from a Tokyo shrine that honors convicted war criminals among the war dead, apparently not to upset neighboring countries.

Environment

Appeals court orders Trump administration to ban pesticide harmful to children's brains within 60 days

By MAURA DOLAN
LOS ANGELES TIMES

SAN FRANCISCO—A federal appeals court ordered the Trump administration Thursday to revoke approval for a widely used pesticide that studies show can harm the brains of children.

A three-judge panel of the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals gave the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency 60 days to ban chlorpyrifos, a pesticide initially developed as a nerve gas during World War II.

"This decision to tell the EPA to do the ban is a pretty bold move," said Kristen Boyles, a staff attorney for Earthjustice, who represented environmental and farm worker groups in the case.

But she said it was justified by the science and the EPA's continued foot-dragging.

The 2-1 decision stemmed from a 2007 petition by two environmental groups to prevent the chemical from being used on food.

The groups cited studies that found children and infants who had been exposed prenatally to low doses of chlorpyrifos suffer from reduced IQ, attention deficit disorders and delayed motor development that lasts into adulthood.

"The EPA failed to take any decisive action in response to the 2007 petition, notwithstanding that the EPA's own internal studies continued to document serious safety risks associated with chlorpyrifos use, particularly for children," New York District Judge Jed S. Rakoff, who was filling in on the 9th Circuit, wrote for the panel.

The Obama administration proposed banning the pesticide's use on food crops, but former EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt reversed course last year and decided to retain the pesticide.

The chemical is used on fruits, vegetables and nuts. Hawaii has banned it, and California scientists have listed it as an air contaminant and developmental toxicant, saying it poses risks to children in the air, water and food.

Since Pruitt's action, several states, including California, joined the litigation in favor of banning the pesticide.

The most recent figures available indicate the pesticide is used on 640,709 acres in California.

Use in California has declined from a peak of more than 2 million pounds in 2005

to 902,275 pounds in 2016.

The 9th Circuit chastised the EPA for delaying action on the chemical.

"The time has come to put a stop to this patent evasion," wrote Rakoff, a Clinton appointee. Ninth Circuit Judge Jacqueline H. Nguyen, an Obama appointee, joined the ruling.

The 9th Circuit called the delays "particularly prejudicial here where the continued use of chlorpyrifos is associated with severe and irreversible health effects."

The court said the EPA had violated the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act and the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act. The laws require the EPA to ban a pesticide from use on food unless there is reasonable certainty that it will cause no harm, the court said.

"The EPA has never made any such determination and, indeed, has itself long questioned the safety of permitting chlorpyrifos to be used within the allowed tolerances," Rakoff wrote.

Judge Ferdinand Fernandez, an appointee of former President George H.W. Bush, dissented. He argued the appeals court lacked the authority to order a ban pending further review by the EPA.

Environmental and farm worker groups hailed the decision.

"Children, farmworkers, rural families and science are all huge winners today," said Kristin Schafer, executive director of Pesticide Action Network North America.

"The court affirmed that EPA's job is to protect public health, not industry profits—and found that their reversal of the planned ban of this brain-harming pesticide was in fact illegal."

Environmental groups pointed out Thursday that a subsidiary of Dow Chemical is the largest manufacturer of chlorpyrifos. Dow donated \$1 million for Trump's inauguration.

"Some things are too sacred to play politics with—and our kids top the list," said Erik Olson, a senior director at the Natural Resources Defense Council, one of the plaintiffs in the case. "The court has made it clear that children's health must come before powerful polluters."

Erik Nicholson, national vice president of the United Farm Workers of America, said the EPA "has put the women and men who harvest the food we eat every day in harm's way too long by allow-

ing the continued use of this dangerous neurotoxin.

"We commend the court for doing what EPA should have done years ago," he said. "The people who feed us deserve a safe and healthy workplace."

EPA spokesman Michael Abboud said the agency was reviewing the decision.

The "data underlying the court's assumptions remains

inaccessible and has hindered the agency's ongoing process to fully evaluate the pesticide using the best available, transparent science," Abboud said.

The California Farm Bureau did not immediately respond to requests for comment.

The Dow subsidiary that makes the chemical called it "a critical pest management tool used by growers around

the world to manage a large number of pests."

The company said in a statement that "regulatory bodies in 79 countries have looked at the science, carefully evaluated the product and its significant benefits and continued to approve its use."

Noting that the 9th Circuit panel was divided, the company said it expected that "all

appellate options to challenge the majority's decision will be considered."

"We will continue to support the growers who need this important product," the statement said.

The EPA could ask a larger panel of the 9th Circuit to review the ruling or appeal directly to the U.S. Supreme Court.



Cropdusting a field of corn in Camarillo, Calif., in a 2001 file image. A three-judge panel of the U.S. 9th Circuit Court of Appeals has given the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency 60 days to ban chlorpyrifos, a pesticide initially developed as a nerve gas during World War II.

AP

IN CELEBRATION OF HER NEW LIFE

† Regina Sibong Aguon

Lovingly known as "Ms. Aguon/Mako"
 Called to eternal life on August 8, 2018

In her new life, she now joins her:

Parents: †Ramon Vidal Aguon and †Laura Sibong Aguon

Brother and Sister-in-law: †Gabriel B. Aguon & †Maria A. Aguon

She will forever be missed by her:

Children: Mark A. Aguon & Jennifer White-Aguon
Karla C. Mareham & Vincent S. Mareham

Grandchildren: Ysabel W. Aguon, Alvin John Taitano & Joann Secharmidal, (Ricky James), Vincent Michael T. Mareham, Luke C. Mareham & Maria Valencia (Tayvon & Rayven), Zoe C. Mareham, Jacob C. Mareham, Laura Sibong Mareham, Andrew C. Mareham

Sisters & In-Laws: Angie Williams & †Valerio Williams (Jennifer, Ginger, Katie, Norman, Myra), Hosiana Blunt & Julius Blunt (Hoover, Christine, Joseph, Kenneth, Melody & Jaime)

Caregiver: Alinda Bejado



Daily rosary is being said at Mount Carmel Cathedral at 7:30pm and last day of Rosary will be Thursday, August 16, 2018. On Monday, August 20, 2018, †Regina's remains will be escorted from the Borja Funeral Homes to Mt. Carmel Cathedral at 7:30 a.m. Visitation to pay last respect will begin from 7:45am to 10:15am. A Funeral Mass will be celebrated at 10:30am. After the mass the body of the deceased will be cremated at Borja Funeral Home.

Your thoughts and prayers are sincerely appreciated.

Thank you , Si Yu'us Ma'ase Yan Ghilissou
Mark Aguon, Karla Mareham and Family

Life & Style

Ex-White House aide says Trump trying to silence her

NEW YORK (AP)—Former White House aide Omarosa Manigault Newman declared Tuesday that she “will not be silenced” by President Donald Trump, remaining defiant as her public feud with her former boss appeared to shift to a possible legal battle.

In an interview with The Associated Press, Manigault Newman, who is promoting her new book about her time in Trump’s orbit, said she believes the president’s campaign organization is trying to keep her from telling her story. She commented just hours after Trump’s campaign announced it was filing an arbitration action against her, alleging violations of a secrecy agreement she signed.

“I will not be intimidated,” she told the AP. “I’m not going to be bullied by Donald Trump.”

Still, the former reality TV star-turned-political aide de-

clined to answer several questions about her experiences during her year as the highest-ranking African-American aide in Trump’s White House, citing the arbitration action. She said she’d been interviewed by special counsel Robert Mueller’s office, but would not discuss details.

She did defend herself against criticism that she didn’t do enough to help African-Americans at the White House, which currently has no African-American in a senior role following her departure.

Manigault Newman continued to unleash scathing criticism of the 72-year-old Trump, saying he’s in mental decline and unfit to be president, and is intentionally sowing racial division. She accused him of using his rowdy political rallies to divide, even suggesting Trump is promot-

ing violence.

Discussing the differences between their views, she said: “One, I want to see this nation united as opposed to divided. I don’t want to see a race war as Donald Trump does.”

The White House counters that Manigault Newman is a disgruntled former staffer with credibility and character issues who is now trying to profit through false attacks against someone she has worked with and supported for more than a decade, including his presidential campaign.

“She worked here for a year and didn’t have any of these things to say,” White House press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders told reporters in Washington. “In fact, everything she said was quite the



Newman

opposite. And not just the year that she worked here, but the time that she spent on the campaign trail and I think it’s really sad what she’s doing at this point.”

Manigault Newman, who has known Trump since she was a contestant in 2003 on his reality TV show, “The Apprentice,” said his proclivity for racial division is evident “when you see at every single opportunity he insults African-Americans.” She noted, as examples, Trump’s recent criticism of NBA player LeBron James and California Democratic Rep. Maxine Waters.

Trump recently tweeted that it took the “dumbest man on television”—also an African-American—to make James “look smart,” and he regularly

refers to Waters as “low I.Q.”

“He wants to divide this nation,” said Manigault Newman, who spoke to the AP during the publicity tour for her book, “Unhinged,” in which she portrays Trump as racist and misogynistic.

“He wants to pit his base against successful African-Americans,” she said. “He uses his rallies to really encourage people to bring down African-Americans. That is truly evidence that this man is not trying to unite us. But he is specifically trying to divide us.”

In addition to speaking publicly about her experiences in Trump’s White House, Manigault Newman has been releasing audio recordings of conversations and meetings held in the building, including a snippet of one she says is of her telephone conversation with Trump the day after she was fired in De-

cember by White House chief of staff John Kelly.

She declined Tuesday to answer questions about her recordings, which she has described as a “treasure trove,” and the extent to which colleagues are secretly recording each other at the White House, again citing the arbitration action.

But she insisted she pushed for diversity in the White House. She noted that hiring and personnel were the responsibility of others, but said she has “tons and tons of emails” in which she pushed job candidates for consideration.

“And it just didn’t seem good enough for this White House,” Manigault Newman said, suggesting the president is uninterested having a diverse staff. “There is no excuse that there’s not another African-American assistant to the president. No excuse whatsoever.”

The wild ascent of ‘Crazy Rich Asians’ star Henry Golding

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. (AP)—Henry Golding was working as a travel show host in Singapore when news broke that “Crazy Rich Asians” was going to be a movie. The city, he remembers, was abuzz about a major Hollywood production coming to Southeast Asia.

“I thought, ‘Wow that’s going to be amazing...for someone else,’” Golding, 31, said recently. “I was so excited for someone else, it was weird.”

Even with his chiseled good looks, undeniable charisma, acting ambitions and comfort in front of a camera after nearly a decade of hosting shows for ESPN Asia, BBC and Discovery Channel Asia, he never imagined that he would ultimately end up being in, let alone co-leading the film—his first ever—as the debonair, Oxford-educated heir Nick Young.

“I knew I wanted to be an actor I just figured they wouldn’t want to take a chance when there are so many amazing actors and all these super handsome male models in China who would translate to acting I’m sure,” Golding said. “And I was like, ‘Man, they’re going to get it and I’m happy for them. But it’s not me.’”

Crazier yet is how Golding got in the running. A studio accountant working in Malaysia had met Golding years ago at a party. He had made enough of an impression on her that she suggested him to a line producer, who then



AP

In this Aug 4, 2018 photo, actor Henry Golding poses for a portrait at the Beverly Wilshire Hotel in Beverly Hills, Calif. to promote his film “Crazy Rich Asians.”

recommended him to director Jon M. Chu, who was nearing the start of production and running out of time to find his Nick.

Chu was intrigued after a deep dive into Golding’s online presence (Instagram, YouTube, the works). He had the look, the right accent and a star quality worthy of a major studio production. The only problem? Golding wasn’t picking up his calls. Undeterred, Chu realized they had

a friend in common on Facebook, the venture capitalist Steve Jang who got hold of Golding on vacation in Tokyo and told him to make time for a Skype call with Chu.

“I thought maybe it’s a cameo, maybe it’s a side character,” Golding said. “We get on Skype and he’s like, ‘I want you for Nick.’”

Producer Nina Jacobson knew they’d found the perfect heartthrob to lead this modern-day fairy tale.

“You could really understand him in both worlds: A guy you could go have a game of pickup basketball with but also a guy who could walk into his family’s estate and be expected to be the heir apparent and be as at home in either,” Jacobson said. “Henry naturally had those qualities ... He has an inner confidence and a sweetness and a humility that really spoke to the character.”

On set, although nervous, Golding said the producers and director left him to his own devices.

“I was freaking out a little bit like, ‘I don’t know if I’m doing it wrong, if I’m doing it right.’ I’m like I guess I’ll just keep doing what I’m doing,” Golding laughed.

And he must have been doing something right, because Golding didn’t even get a chance to pause before he was fielding a call from another Hollywood director, Paul Feig, looking to cast him. Feig was hunting man to play opposite Blake Lively in “A Simple Favor,” out Sept. 14. He’d become aware of Golding through his wife, Laurie Feig, a “Crazy Rich Asians” fan who encouraged him to take a look at this intriguing newcomer. And right before the “Crazy Rich Asians” press tour swung into high-gear, Golding was in Vietnam shooting another movie, the drama “Monsoon,” which is expected to be at film festivals next year.

‘Not an easy time’ for Chris Pratt after Gunn firing

LOS ANGELES

(AP)—Chris Pratt says “it’s not an easy time” as he and the rest of the “Guardians of the Galaxy” cast look to the future of the hit superhero franchise after Disney fired writer-director James Gunn.

Pratt told The Associated Press in an interview Tuesday that he stands behind social media posts saying he hopes Gunn can be reinstated for the next movie.

“It’s not an easy time. We all love James and he’s a good friend of ours, but we also really love playing the Guardians of the Galaxy. It’s a complicated situation for everybody. And you know, we just want to move forward and do what’s right and be the best people we can be,” Pratt told the AP.

Gunn was fired last month as director of “Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 3” because of old tweets that recently emerged where he joked about subjects like pedophilia and rape. He has apologized for the tweets, which were posted from 2008 to 2011.

Pratt spoke to the AP at a bar in Los Angeles after meeting with seven disabled athletes who are being sponsored to run in the New York Marathon by Michelob Ultra. The 39-year-old actor, a spokesman for the beer brand, said it was “shocking” to hear news of Gunn’s firing during Com-



Pratt

ic-Con in San Diego.

“I love going to Comic-Con but I ended up not doing a lot of interviews around that time just because it was so shocking. All I know is we put a lot of

time, thought and effort into the statement that we released about it. And I think we all kind of want that statement to be essentially what we have to say about it. And we were pretty clear and honest about how we feel,” Pratt said.

Pratt signed an open letter released 10 days after Gunn’s firing, saying the cast fully supports the director and the character he showed both on the set of the first two movies and in the wake of his firing. Zoe Saldana, Bradley Cooper, Vin Diesel and five other main stars of the franchise also signed the letter.

Before his firing, Gunn’s Twitter account was heavy on left-leaning politics, and some on the right with whom he’d sparred found and promoted the tweets that led to his ouster.

Gunn has been writer and director of the “Guardians of the Galaxy” franchise from the start, taking an obscure Marvel Comics title about a group of misfits and turning it into a space opera decked with comedy and retro music that made Pratt a major movie star. Through two installments the franchise has brought in more than \$1.5 billion in global box office.

Stevie Wonder, Jesse Jackson visit ailing Aretha Franklin

NEW YORK (AP)—Stevie Wonder visited an ailing Aretha Franklin at her home in Detroit on Tuesday.

Franklin's publicist Gwendolyn Quinn told The Associated Press on Tuesday that the Rev. Jesse Jackson and Franklin's ex-husband, actor Glynn Turman, also visited the Queen of Soul, who is seriously ill.

A person close to Franklin, who spoke on the condition of anonymity because the person was not allowed to publicly talk about the topic, told the AP on Monday that the singer is ill. No more details were provided.

Franklin canceled planned concerts earlier this year after she was ordered by her doctor

Boyz II Men, Charlie Wilson to join

Bruno Mars on tour

Cardi B may have backed out of the Bruno Mars tour, but he's found four other acts to hit the road with him.

Mars announced Tuesday that Boyz II Men, Charlie Wilson, Ciara and "Boo'd Up" singer Ella Mai will perform during his upcoming fall concerts on his 24K Magic World Tour.

Boyz II Men, who released their debut album in 1991 and launched multiple R&B and pop hits, will help Mars kick off the new shows on Sept. 7 in Denver.

Cardi B, who is featured on Mars' "Finesse" remix, backed out of the tour last month, saying she wasn't ready to leave her newborn baby.

Mars' tour will also visit Philadelphia, Los Angeles, Detroit, Boston, Toronto, Dallas, Brooklyn and Nashville, Tennessee. **(AP)**

to stay off the road and rest up. The 76-year-old announced plans to retire last year, saying she would perform at "some select things."

Fans, friends and musicians influenced by Franklin offered positive words to the iconic singer when news broke that she was ill, including Rod Stewart, Mariah Carey, Chaka Khan, Lin-Manuel Miranda, Tyler Perry, Missy Elliott and Wayne Brady.

At her concert in Detroit on Monday night with Jay-Z, Beyonce thanked Franklin for

her "beautiful music" and said "we love you."

Former U.S. President Bill Clinton tweeted Monday that he and Hillary Clinton "are thinking about Aretha Franklin tonight & listening to her music that has been such an important part of our lives the last 50 years."

"We hope you'll lift her up by listening and sharing her songs that have meant the most to you," Clinton wrote.

In an interview with the AP on Monday, Emmy-winning actor Sterling K. Brown said,

"May I wish the Queen of Soul all the best."

"Your music has moved and inspired a generation," he added, "so my prayers are with you. Wishing you all the best, queen."

Actress-singer Mandy Moore, who stars in "This Is Us" with Brown, said Franklin has "the most incredible legacy."

"Who is not a fan? I don't think there is anyone that Aretha Franklin's music has not touched or influenced in one way or another," she

told the AP. "She's the best of the best."

Fans gathered Tuesday in Lafayette Park, directly in front of the White House, to pray for Franklin. With a saxophonist playing nearby, Rocky Twyman clutched a handwritten get-well card made from a white poster and appealed to passing tourists to sign it and pray for the singer.

The card read: "Book of Love and Healing for Aretha, the Queen."

Twyman, of Rockville, Maryland, described himself

as a longtime fan. He said he and his religious group held a prayer vigil outside the White House for Franklin in 2013, and she got better then.

"We're hoping that God will shine down upon her and heal her again," he said.

Tuva Johannessen, a tourist visiting from Norway, signed Twyman's get-well card. The 34-year-old said she has been listening to Franklin's music all her life.

"I loved how she has an ability to touch people's heart with her music," Johannessen said.

Kristen Bell narrates cuddly IMAX documentary 'Pandas'

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Anyone who has seen Kristen Bell break down in (happy) hysterics over a sloth knows the actress' affinity for animals, especially those of the cute and cuddly variety. So when the people behind the new IMAX original film "Pandas" asked "The Good Place" star if she would consider narrating the documentary, it was a no-brainer.

"I'm not un-secretive about the fact that I'm an animal lover, or an IMAX lover to be totally honest with you," Bell said. "I think they produce some of the best content out there and I take my kids to the science center every time there's a new IMAX movie. I just think the patience with which they produce particularly their animal documentaries is kind of astounding."

"Pandas," from David Douglas and Drew Fellman ("Born to Be Wild" and "Island of Lemurs: Madagascar"), takes audiences to the Chengdu Research Base of Giant Panda Breeding in China where scientists are working toward a goal of releasing captive-born pandas into the wild, where only about 2,000 remaining pandas live.

The film, which will be in wide release beginning Friday, focuses in on one, Qian Qian (pronounced Chen Chen), from cub stage to her supervised release in the wild and the humans trying to make that happen. Hou Rong, the director of research at Panda Base since 1994, has raised over 200 baby pandas during her tenure and hopes that one

day their work will help pandas thrive outside of captivity.

In an inspiring display of cross-cultural solidarity, she travels to New Hampshire to observe how a man named Ben Kilham Bell has for 20 years been



release in the wild. At Kilham's suggestion, Panda Base hires American conservation biologist Jake Owens, whom Douglas calls "the Indiana Jones of biologists" to help supervise Qian Qian's transition from city panda to country panda.



This image released by Warner Bros. Pictures shows giant pandas in a scene from the IMAX documentary "Pandas."

Bell, who got involved later in the process, didn't get to meet the pandas but hopes that one day she will. But that didn't stop her from peppering the scientists like Owens with questions, like how much do they weigh ("150 pounds"), how much do they feel like they weigh ("about 300 pounds") and what do they smell like ("sweet grass and milk")?

An avid watcher of nature documentaries, Bell said that she and her young daughters Lincoln and Delta particularly love David Attenborough and the "Planet Earth" series. The girls saw an early cut of "Pandas" and "loved it," which makes Bell all the more excited for additional kids and families to experience "Pandas," too.

"It's inspiring the next crop of biologists and conservationists," she said.

She thinks the film will connect beyond animal die-hards, too.

"It makes you feel good," Bell said. "It's inspiring, it's beautiful, it's adorable, it's educational and personally I think currently the world could use more things that feel good, you know?"

Loss of job also puts end to man's affair with co-worker

DEAR ABBY: Back in 2013, a co-worker, "Jamie," and I fell in love. Both of us were married to other people, but everything felt perfect. It was a feeling I never had for anyone in my life before. Three years later, I lost my job. The day I was terminated, my wife found out I had been cheating, so I ended the affair.

I have found full-time work and I'm still married, but I'm not in love with my wife like I am with Jamie. I have tried to stay in contact with her to prove to her that I'm a better man, with little success. She told me I was her only love, but I broke her heart.

She doesn't want to see me, even after several years of my trying to prove that I am the man she fell in love with. Her husband doesn't know anything. She's afraid I may break it off again. Should I continue pursuing her or give up and move on? I thought I could handle it on my own, but I need some advice.

MISSING HER IN ONTARIO, CANADA

DEAR MISSING HER: If you and Jamie really loved each other, you would no longer be married to your spouses. Having been dumped by you once, your former lover has a point. Give up and move on and you will save yourself, your wife, Jamie and her husband a lot of pain.

DEAR ABBY: I'm a pediatric RN at a large hospital. Sadly, I have seen too many young children die. I have learned to keep a professional distance, so that I can take care of the children and their families. I never give out my phone number, social media or email address, and I try not to let the parents ever see my struggle. But every once and a while, I can't help caring beyond "professional."

We just lost a beautiful little one who had spent a year and a half receiving care off and on in the hospital, and I'm heartbroken. The family has asked for nurses and doctors to attend the funeral, and I really want to. But how do I explain why I go to some funerals and not others?

HEARTBROKEN ONCE AGAIN

DEAR HEARTBROKEN: You don't have to explain. I can't imagine anyone actually counting the number of funerals/memorials you attend and asking a question like that. However, if anyone should, say that you can't attend them all because the loss of these little angels takes such a heavy toll on your heart. It's the truth.

DEAR ABBY: My late wife passed away two years ago. We always had a dog in our house. He died a year ago. I now have a new lady love in my life, but she doesn't want a pet in her

DEAR ABBY

By **ABIGAIL VAN BUREN**
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



house. I'm dying to have another dog, and I don't know what to do. Please advise.

PETLESS IN TEXAS

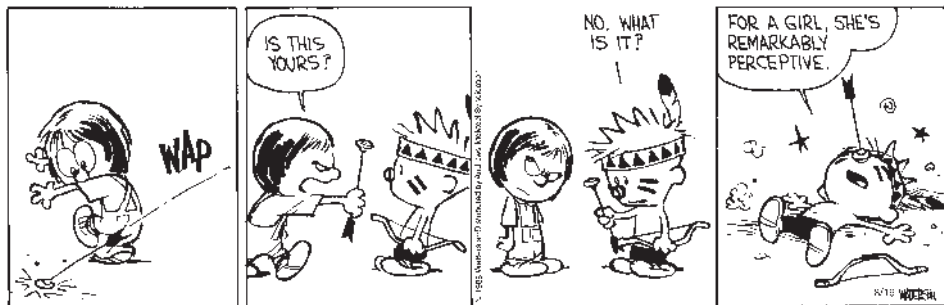
DEAR PETLESS: Eligible widowers are a prized commodity. If your idea of happiness is having a house dog, find yourself a lady who loves animals as you do. It shouldn't be difficult.

Good advice for everyone—teens to seniors—is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

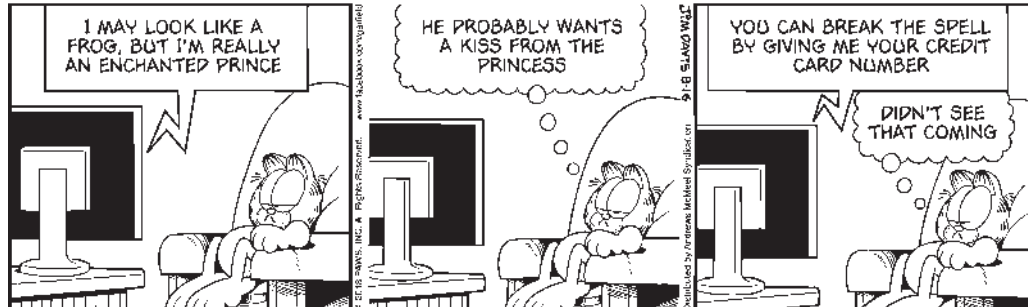
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



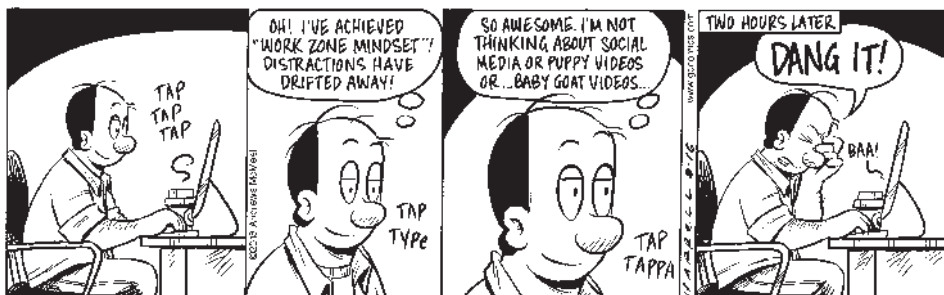
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Broadway offering

5 Evening hrs.

8 Overconfident

12 "Downton Abbey" countess

13 Bond rating

14 Heal

15 Genesis shepherd

16 "Fresh Air" ailer

17 Capital on a fjord

18 Gizmo

20 Quitter's word

22 D-Day landing spot

26 Blue Grotto isle

29 CIA fore-runner

30 Carnival city

31 "Frozen" snowman

32 Comic DeLuise

33 Thor's father

DOWN

34 Soviet space station

35 "Unh-unh"

36 Commercial cow

37 Shindig by the sea

40 Iodine source

41 Donny or Marie

45 Bailiwick

47 Trail the pack

49 Entreaty

50 Fortas and Lincoln

51 Flightless bird

52 "— a Kick Out of You"

53 Locus

54 Coloring agent

55 Bern's river

DOWN

1 Large amount

2 Vagrant

3 Crunchy cookie

4 Salad choice

5 Bamboo eater

6 Pirate's chart

7 Snarky speech

8 Tea biscuit

9 Hot dog condiments

10 Web address

11 Earth (Pref.)

19 Parisian pal

21 Six-pack muscles

23 Uproar

24 103, in old Rome

25 Sharpen

26 Barber's tool

27 "I cannot tell —"

28 Talking bird

32 Spotted, as a horse

33 Puget Sound capital

35 Stanley Cup org.

36 UFO crew

38 Stop

39 Scalawag

42 "Three Sisters" sister

43 —do-well

44 Appointment

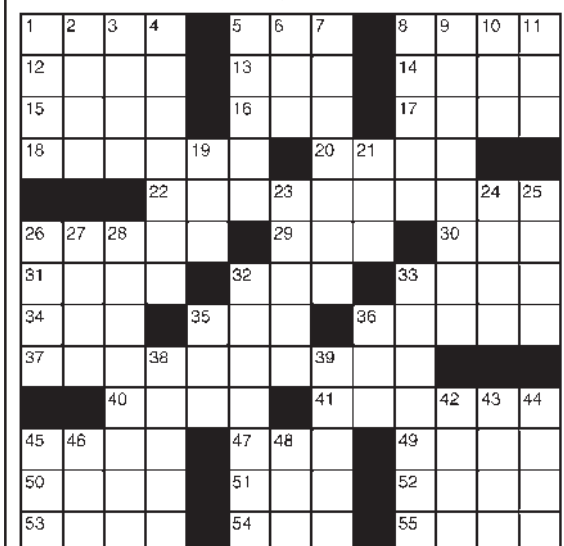
45 Small batteries

46 MLB stat

48 Author Tan

Solution time: 24 mins.

Yesterday's answer 8-16



STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-800-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Cameron Monaghan, 25; Steve Carell, 56; Angela Bassett, 60; Madonna, 60.

Happy Birthday: You can think big, but don't set goals that are unreasonable. Plan and prepare for anything and everything. Knowing what you are doing and living within your means will help you move forward without loss or regret. Be methodical and thorough, and stick to your budget. You will reap rewards for being patient and paying attention to detail. Your numbers are 5, 12, 23, 29, 32, 37, 41.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Put more thought into the way you handle your relationships with the people you live or work with before you decide to make changes that could alter the way others feel about you. Compassion, thoughtfulness and understanding will be required. ★★★

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Share your feelings, but don't make a fuss. Have a plan in mind or a suggestion or solution ready if you think adjustments need to be made. Be willing to listen to what others have to say. Relationships are two-way streets. ★★★

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Stabilize your personal life and home environment. Talk matters over with loved ones if you feel changes need to be made. Be open to suggestions and willing to make adjustments in order to keep the peace. Romance is highlighted. ★★★★★

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Trust your intuition over your emotions. If you let someone take advantage of you, it will lead to an argument that will be difficult to re-

solve. Look at every angle of an issue before you make a statement. ★★

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Stick close to home and concentrate on personal, physical and emotional improvements. The better you feel about who you are, what you represent and what you do, the easier it will be to get things done. Don't give in to temptation. ★★★★★

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Visit places that are unfamiliar. Experience what life has to offer. Broaden your horizons and expand your circle of friends. Change will do you good and open your eyes to new possibilities. Travel and educational pursuits are favored. ★★★★★

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): You can't please everyone. Offer help where you can and ignore those who criticize or ridicule you. Arguing will not be productive or help calm your nerves. Follow your heart, be good to yourself and offer love and peace. ★★★

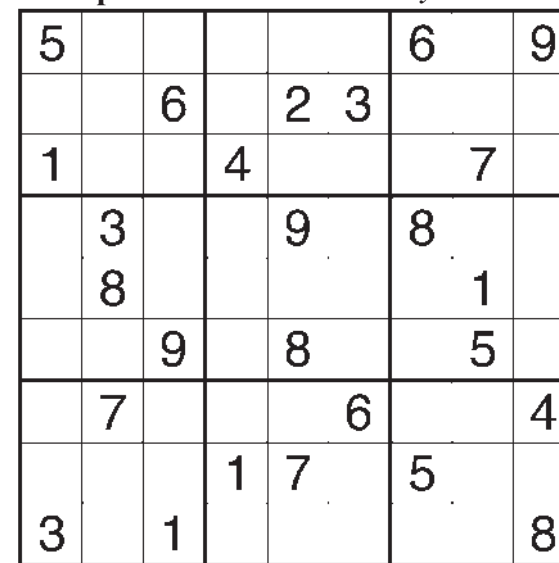
SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Look at all possibilities and consider what suits you best and is most comforting and self-gratifying. Bring about changes that will eliminate negativity in your life and help you maintain balance as well as enforce a debt-free lifestyle. ★★★

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Reconnect with people who have been helpful in the past, not those who have leaned on you without giving anything in return. Don't lose sight of the cost involved in bringing about a change that someone wants you to make. ★★★

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green



Difficulty Level ★★★

8/16

Difficulty Level: ★★★

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EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Get serious about the changes you want to make. Whether personal or professional, it's important to follow through with your plans after careful consideration of the end result you are trying to achieve. Don't let anyone lead you astray. ★★★★★



AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Too much of anything will lead to trouble. Use intelligence and common sense to help you avoid emotional purchases or making promises that aren't realistic or affordable. Look inward and concentrate on personal gains. Romance and self-improvement are favored. ★★



PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Someone from your past will surprise you with an unexpected offer, gift or paycheck for something you did a long time ago. Attending a reunion or offering to help someone in need will change your life or the way you move forward. ★★★★★

Birthday Baby: You are helpful, encouraging and dedicated. You are innovative and adaptable. To submit astrological questions to the "Dear Eugenia" column, visit EugeniaLast.com, or join Eugenia on Twitter/Facebook/LinkedIn.

WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

I NEED VITAMIN SEA

Solution: 5 letters

L E K R O N S M A E R T S H S
R Y L I M A F M Z E A T U A P
E M U S I C A E T N S M N M L
L S F L O Z E A N A B D S M A
A G I B E R W I O R C C E O S
X N S U B D N C E A T A T C H
G I H B R G I L S H E L L K Y
N T I B C C L T S W I M A P D
I A N L A A L A B U C S O S R
V O G E M E M O R Y M N C E A
I L W S P R O H C N A M S B T
D F A M A E R C E C I T E F E
A B L U E N O I T A C A V R T
E A K S E G A T T O C E A U I
R S S E N I P P A H N H W S K

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8/16

Amaze, Anchor, Beach, Blue, Breeze, Bubbles, Calm, Camp, Canopy, Coasts, Cottages, Cruise, Diving, Family, Fishing, Floating, Hammock, Happiness, Heat, Hydrate, Ice Cream, Kite, Memory, Music, Read, Relax, Sailing, Salt, Sandcastle, Scuba, Shell, Snorkel, Splash, Stream, Summer, Sunset, Surf, Swim, Tanning, Tide, Umbrella, Vacation, Walks, Water, Waves

Yesterday's Answer: Trending

To purchase the WONDERWORD MILLENNIUM SERIES #1 or #2, order online at www.WonderWordBooks.com. (Contains 100 puzzles.)

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PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the Articles of Dissolution of Xiong's Corporation, a corporation established and operating in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, has been filed with the CNMI Registrar of Corporation on August 7, 2018. Pursuant thereto, all creditors and persons with claims against the corporation are hereby notified to present their claim in writing to the corporation at the address set forth below:

Xiong's Corporation
PMB 165 Box 10003
Saipan, MP 96950
All claims not filed within the time
required by law will forever be barred.

/s/ Pierre Lam
President for Xiong's Corporation

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID

ITB NO.: ITB 18-DLNR/DFW-136-CIF ROTA

SUBMISSION/OPENIGN DATE: SEPTEMBER 17, 2018 TIME: 09:00 A.M.

"PURCHASE OF ONE (1) PICK-UP TRUCK FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF LANDS & NATURAL RESOURCES, DIVISION OF FISH & WILDLIFE (ROTA BRANCH)"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENCION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ ANTHONY T. BENAVENTE
SECRETARY, DLNR

/S/ MANUEL M. PANGELINAN
RDH DIRECTOR, DLNR

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID

ITB NO.: ITB 18-OGM-130 (A-B)

SUBMISSION DATE: SEPTEMBER 10, 2018 TIME: 09:00 A.M.

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Federer wins, Serena loses in Cincy tourney

MASON, Ohio (AP)—Roger Federer made a successful return to the Western and Southern Cincinnati Open on Tuesday.

The day wasn't so great for Serena Williams.

Federer advanced to the third round with a 6-4, 6-4 victory against Peter Gojowczyk, and Williams was eliminated by eighth-seeded Petra Kvitová in a 6-3, 2-6, 6-3 second-round loss.

Federer and Williams were making their first appearance at the tournament since they each won the title in 2015. Williams opened with a straight-set victory against Daria Gavrilova.

After a first-round bye, Federer extended his Cincinnati winning streak to 11 matches since losing to Rafael Nadal in the 2013 quarterfinals.

"It doesn't feel like I have been away for so long here from Cincinnati," Federer said. "I guess the wheel keeps turning. It's not like I missed two years of tennis. It was a great pleasure to be back."

The second-seeded Federer, refreshed from a month off after losing in the Wimbledon quarterfinals, became the tournament favorite when Nadal withdrew on Sunday night.

Williams also was knocked out in her last tournament at San Jose two weeks ago after reaching the Wimbledon final. Cincinnati was her fifth tournament since she had a baby last September. She has dealt with blood clots and recently said she has been struggling with postpartum emotions.

"You know, this is a long comeback," she said. "I just began. I just started—definitely at the very, very be-



AP
Roger Federer of Switzerland returns to Peter Gojowczyk of Germany at the Western & Southern Cincinnati Open tennis tournament, Tuesday, Aug. 14, 2018, in Mason, Ohio.

ginning. I'm getting there, and I'm going to just continue to work hard, and hopefully, I'll start winning more matches."

Karolina Pliskova and Nick Kyrgios also advanced Tuesday in early tournament action.

Pliskova moved into the second round by snapping a seven-match losing streak against Agnieszka Radwanska with a 6-3, 6-3 win.

"It means a lot because it was against her, and, like, you know, I never beat her," Pliskova said. "We played so many times. I think I always played her at her best level

the matches before, so it was always tough."

Kyrgios, a finalist last year in Cincinnati, overcame physical problems to fight off qualifier Denis Kudla for a 6-7 (2), 7-5, 7-6 (9) victory.

"This year has been tough," Kyrgios said. "I started the year very well. Then, obviously, I hurt my elbow. Then I had an ongoing hip injury. We have been definitely thinking about the options with my hip. You know, there is only so much you can do before you have to, you know, I guess, get surgery or something like that.

You know, right now I'm just managing it."

No. 11 seed David Goffin advanced with a 7-5, 6-3 win over Stefanos Tsitsipas, and Leonardo Mayer became the first player to reach the third round on the men's side with a 7-6 (7), 6-4 victory over 16th-seeded Lucas Pouille.

Denis Shapovalov also reached the third round with an upset, knocking off 14th-seeded Kyle Edmund, 6-4, 7-5.

Australian Open semifinalist Hyeon Chung won the last five games to beat Jack Sock 2-6, 6-1, 6-2. Sock has lost eight straight matches since winning in Rome on May 13.

Two-time Cincinnati semifinalist Milos Raonic advanced with a 6-3, 6-3 win

over qualifier Dusan Lajovic. Robin Haase also made it to the second round, defeating Filip Krajinovic 4-6, 6-2, 6-3.

Fifth-seeded Elina Svitolina was tested by wild card Svetlana Kuznetsova before reaching the third round with a gritty 7-6 (1), 4-6, 6-4 win. Sixth-seeded Caroline Garcia also reached the third round with a 6-4, 6-5 win over wild card Victoria Azarenka, but 12th-seeded Daria Kasatkina suffered a first-round upset at the hands of qualifier Petra Martić, 4-6, 6-4, 6-3.

Elise Mertens scored a 6-4, 6-2 first-round win over Magdalena Rybarikova. Ashleigh Barty stopped wild card Marketa Vondrousova 6-3, 7-5.

Maria Sakkari upset Indian Wells champion Naomi Osaka 6-3, 7-6 (8). Ekaterina Makarova cruised past qualifier Ana Bogdan 6-3, 6-2.

Woods juices ratings for PGA Championship



NEW YORK (AP)—There's nothing like a late charge from Tiger Woods to juice the ratings of a major golf tournament.

CBS reached 8.5 million viewers Sunday for final-round competition at the PGA Championship from St. Louis, a whopping 73 percent increase from the 4.9 million people who watched the same tournament's conclusion in 2017, the Nielsen company said.

Woods was the difference. The old hero was playing his best golf in years, leading to a second-place finish against champion Brooks Koepka. Koepka may have won, but crowds and newspaper headlines followed Woods.

They were the best ratings for a PGA championship since 2009. Viewership peaked in the last half-hour of the tourney, when 12.3 million people were watching, Nielsen said.

It was a typical midsummer week for prime-time television, dominated by games of singing, dancing and interpersonal manipulation. NBC's "America's Got Talent" led the way with 11 million viewers.

NBC won the week in prime-time, averaging 4.1

million viewers. ABC had 3.9 million viewers, CBS had 3.8 million, Fox had 1.7 million, ION Television had 1.4 million, Telemundo had 1.2 million, Univision had 1.1 million and the CW averaged 800,000 viewers.

Fox News Channel was the week's most popular cable network, averaging 2.13 million viewers. MSNBC had 1.71 million viewers, HGTV had 1.33 million, USA had 1.29 million and History had 1.09 million.

ABC's "World News Tonight" topped the evening newscasts with an average of 7.9 million viewers. NBC's "Nightly News" was second with 7.3 million and the "CBS Evening News" had 5.5 million.

For the week of Aug. 6-12, the top 10 shows, their networks and viewerships: "America's Got Talent," NBC, 11.04 million; "60 Minutes," CBS, 8.21 million; "The Bachelor," ABC, 6.72 million; "Celebrity Family Feud," ABC, 5.79 million; "Big Brother" (Sunday), CBS, 5.74 million; "Big Brother" (Wednesday), CBS, 5.64 million; "NCIS," CBS, 5.26 million; "Big Brother" (Thursday), CBS, 5.15 million; "American Ninja Warrior," NBC, 5.02 million; "World of Dance," NBC, 4.75 million.

Wade, Hood among top players remaining on market



MIAMI—With NBA free agency heading toward the one-month mark, there are still plenty of players left to sign, but most of the marquee names are off the board.

One still floating out there is Dwyane Wade, but it appears that he'll most likely sign with the Heat unless he chooses to retire.

Aside from Wade, there's still a number of quality names left unsigned, including Rodney Hood and Jamal Crawford. Carmelo Anthony had a brief stint as a free agent after being bought out by the Hawks, but he quickly signed with the Rockets.

As for the stars who have gotten new deals, here's a quick recap. LeBron James decided to take his talents to

Los Angeles and join up

with the Lakers. Golden State pulled off a massive surprise, agreeing to terms with All-Star center DeMarcus Cousins on a one-year, \$5.3 million deal. Did the Warriors just create the most dominant starting lineup ever? If Cousins is healthy then it's very possible. It was the biggest shock of NBA free agency so far, but there are still plenty of quality players still available.

Other stars who were quick to strike deals include Paul George re-upping with the Thunder, Chris Paul returning to the Rockets and Kevin Durant doing the same with the Warriors.

Meanwhile, the NBA has been working to make inroads in India—it's nation far more fixated on Cricket, field hockey, and soccer, but it has a lot of youth playing basketball at schools, and it has the second largest population of any

country in the world (nearly 1.4 billion people).

The NBA sees another big potential overseas market, one the league wants to cultivate. They have done that with an NBA Academy and Basketball Without Borders has been multiple times, including this past June.

But if the NBA really wants to grow the game in India, they need to bring the product there. That could happen during the 2019 preseason, NBA Commissioner Adam Silver said at the Jr NBA World Championships, via the HindustanTimes.

The NBA has played preseason games all over the world, including this season in China (plus the league has regular-season games in London and Mexico City).

It's easy to envision the league sending the Sacramento Kings—which is owned



Puig takes swing at Hundley before Giants beat Dodgers



LOS ANGELES (AP)—Yasiel Puig

had another rumble with the San Francisco Giants on Tuesday night.

Puig took a swing at Giants catcher Nick Hundley during a benches-clearing scrap in the seventh inning, then Alen Hanson hit an RBI single in the ninth to lift San Francisco over the Los Angeles Dodgers 2-1 on Tuesday night.

The fracas started when Puig swatted his bat in frustration after fouling off a pitch from Tony Watson, and Hundley said something to the mercurial slugger while still in his crouch. Puig turned around and walked toward Hundley, the catcher stood up, and they argued face to face for a moment before Puig shoved Hundley twice.

That brought players out of the benches and bullpens. Puig and Hundley were momentarily separated, but Puig ducked around teammates, coaches and manager Dave Roberts before reaching back to hit Hundley. He smacked Hundley with an open hand across the front of his catcher's mask.

"When I missed the pitch I knew that was the best pitch Watson was going to throw me so I was a little upset," Puig said via a translator. "(Hundley) told me to stop complaining and get back into the box. When I got in his face he also told me to get out of his face so that's when I got upset."

"I didn't like that he was telling me what to do and then he said some words to me in English that I really can't repeat so that is why I was upset."

Said Hundley: "We're competing on the field against a team we're chasing. They've been scuffling a little bit and we're trying to catch them. Obviously a nice rivalry. We had some words and pushed a couple times. There's really not more to it than that."

Dodgers coach George Lombard was trying to push Hundley away when Puig took his swing. Lombard and Hundley briefly ended up on the grass. Hundley spoke to Lombard later.

"He was in there trying to break it up," Hundley said. "I think he got caught up in my chest protector. We went down and I knew I was on top of him at some point. I just asked him if he was all right. You don't want anyone hurt in those situations."

After the players were separated for good, the umpires ejected both Puig and Hundley.

It was the fourth career ejection for Puig, who had also got into a skirmish with Giants pitcher Madison Bumgarner in 2014.



AP
San Francisco Giants relief pitcher Tony Watson, left, scuffles with Los Angeles Dodgers' Yasiel Puig, right, as other members of the Dodgers get involved after Puig shoved Giants catcher Nick Hundley during the seventh inning of a baseball game, Tuesday, Aug. 14, 2018, in Los Angeles.

Braves 10, Marlins 6

In Atlanta, Ronald Acuna Jr. became the youngest player in major league history to homer in five straight games, hitting a leadoff shot on the first pitch and later adding a three-run drive to help the surging Atlanta Braves beat the Miami Marlins.

The 20-year-old Acuna homered on Miami's first pitch for the second straight night and became the first player to hit a leadoff homer in three consecutive games since Baltimore's Brady Anderson went deep in four straight in 1996. On Monday, he became the fourth player in major league history to hit leadoff homers in both games of a doubleheader.

Angels 7, Padres 3

In San Diego, Justin Upton had three hits, including a home run for the second straight night, and drove in three runs to lead the Los Angeles Angels over San Diego.

Eric Young Jr. tripled and had two RBI, and rookie Taylor Ward had two hits, including an RBI double in his first major league at-bat.

Freddy Galvis homered in the third straight game for the Padres.

Athletics 3, Mariners 2

In Oakland, Jed Lowrie hit his 100th career homer long after his line drive knocked Mariners ace James Paxton out of the game, and the Oakland Athletics moved within one game of the slumping Houston Astros for the AL West lead.

Felix Hernandez (8-11) re-

placed Paxton in the first relief appearance of his career after 398 starts. The former Cy Young Award winner, who has struggled all year and was demoted to the bullpen last week, allowed two runs in 5 2/3 innings.

Paxton suffered a bruise on his left forearm after Lowrie's line drive popped him in the first inning, and X-rays taken later were negative.

White Sox 6, Tigers 3

In Detroit, Ryan LaMarre hit his first major league home run, a drive that bounced off the top of the bullpen shelter in left field and into the hands of his uncle, as Chicago beat Detroit.

LaMarre was born 10 miles north of Comerica Park and played college baseball at Michigan.

Chicago won for the second time in eight games, improving to 2-9 against Detroit this season.

Rockies 5, Astros 1

In Houston, Nolan Arenado and Trevor Story each went deep, German Marquez pitched well in a matchup with Justin Verlander, and Colorado beat slumping Houston.

The Astros have matched a season high with five straight losses and extended their home skid to nine games.

Cardinals 6, Nationals 4

In St. Louis, John Gant homered for his first major league hit and pitched one-run ball into the sixth inning, helping St. Louis to its season-high

seventh consecutive victory.

Kolten Wong had three hits and three RBI as St. Louis (65-55) pulled within four games of the NL Central-leading Cubs and moved within one game of the Phillies for the second NL wild card.

Red Sox 2, Phillies 1

In Philadelphia, pinch-hitter Brock Holt hit a tiebreaking solo homer, Rick Porcello threw seven impressive innings and the major league-leading Red Sox won again.

Sandy Leon also went deep for Boston, which improved to 86-35. The Red Sox increased their total to 168 homers, matching their number from last year when they hit an AL-low 168.

Porcello (15-5) gave up one run and two hits, striking out 10. Craig Kimbrel worked the ninth for his 36th save.

Indians 8, Reds 1

In Cincinnati, Jose Ramirez hit his 36th home run and Cleveland ace Corey Kluber extended his dominance over Cincinnati.

The Indians have won the first two games of the series by a combined 18-4 despite a rough week with outfielder Leonys Martin hospitalized with a serious bacterial infection and right-hander Trevor Bauer on the DL with a fractured right leg.

Kluber (15-6) allowed one run and five hits and struck out seven in seven innings. In his past four starts against the Reds, he is 4-0 with a 1.80 ERA.

Brewers 7, Cubs 0

In Chicago, Ryan Braun hit two of Milwaukee's four homers, Jhoulys Chacin struck out 10 in seven innings and the Brewers cut into the Cubs NL Central lead.

Lorenzo Cain homered on Jose Quintana's second pitch. Braun hit a two-run drive in the first and third. Erik Kratz added a solo homer in the sixth and an RBI double in the eighth.

Yankees 4, Rays 1

In New York, J.A. Happ allowed one soft single in seven shutout innings to win his third consecutive start since being traded from Toronto to the New York Yankees.

Happ (13-6) struck out four and walked four, throwing 71 of 106 pitches for strikes. The only Tampa Bay hit he permitted was a flyball by C.J. Cron that fell in front of left fielder Brett Gardner in the fourth.

Diamondbacks 6, Rangers 4

In Arlington, Paul Goldschmidt hit his 27th homer to put Arizona ahead to stay, and All-Star lefty Patrick Corbin worked seven innings for his 10th victory.

Corbin (10-4) struck out seven without a walk while allowing three runs and throwing 66 of 96 pitches for strikes. He has made 10 consecutive starts without allowing a homer, the longest span for the Diamondbacks in 15 years and matching Boston's Chris Sale for the longest active streak in the majors.

Twins 5, Pirates 2

In Minneapolis, Jorge Polanco got two hits, scored twice and drove in two runs and Miguel Sano hit a two-run homer, leading Minnesota over Pittsburgh.

Jake Odorizzi (5-7) won for the first time in six starts, striking out nine in 5 2/3 innings. Trevor Hildenberger, the Twins' fourth reliever, pitched a scoreless ninth for his second save since the trade of closer Fernando Rodney.

Blue Jays 6, Royals 5

In Kansas City, Kevin Pillar hit a two-run homer with two outs in the eighth inning to lift Toronto over Kansas.

Blaine Boyer (2-1) retired his first two batters before walking Aledmys Diaz and backing Pillar into an 0-2 count. Pillar hit the next pitch over the wall down the left field line.

Orioles 6, Mets 3

In Baltimore, Chris Davis, Adam Jones and Tim Lincecum each homered to back a strong performance by starter Andrew Cashner, and Baltimore snapped a five-game skid.

Baltimore won both games against the Mets at Citi Field on June 5-6 and can complete the season sweep Wednesday.

Cashner (4-10) retired 10 consecutive batters before Jeff McNeil singled on a ground ball that caromed off first base in the fourth inning. Cashner allowed two runs and five hits with three strikeouts and three walks over seven innings.

Brady sees 'urgency' in preseason game vs Super Bowl foe



FOXBOROUGH, Mass. (A P) — New England Patriots quarterback

Tom Brady thinks his next game against the Philadelphia Eagles is a little like the last time he played them.

The reigning NFL MVP says he's eager to get back on the field for the first time since the Super Bowl, and his next chance is in Thursday night's exhibition game against Philadelphia. Brady did not play in the preseason opener against Washington last week.

"We've got a big one against the Eagles and we know the challenge they pres-

ent," Brady said on Tuesday. "So, (we're) trying to put a lot into it and see if we can obviously get a lot out of it. You know, it's a big test. They're a good team and we're going to have to play well."

Philadelphia beat the Patriots 41-33 in February for its first Super Bowl title. The teams will meet again in New England this week, with considerably less on the line.

But you wouldn't know it from listening to Brady, who said there is urgency even in the second game on the exhibition schedule, because the team needs to line up against an opponent to measure its progress.



"They're important," Brady said. "If it was a waste of time, we wouldn't do it. I think there's a lot of urgency, and you know we're not where we need to be, got a lot of work to do and these practices are a part of it, (along

^{AP} New England Patriots quarterback Tom Brady watches from the sideline during the first half of a preseason NFL football game against the Washington Redskins, Thursday, Aug. 9, 2018, in Foxborough, Mass.

with) the opportunities that we get in the game."

Brady, who turned 41 this month, said he is feeling healthy and planning to play on Thursday night. The decision will be up to coach Bill Belichick.

"I certainly plan on being out there," Brady said.

Also Tuesday, Brady repeated that his goal is to play "a long time." He reportedly reached an agreement that could boost his pay this year by \$5 million in 2018; he is signed through next season.

"You always have short-term goals and long-term goals, and this year's the one I'm focused on," he said. "Obviously, I want to play for a long time, so I've said that for a while. Feel like I'm a broken record."

In Wisconsin, Packers coach Mike McCarthy wouldn't declare Justin McCray the winner of the training camp competition at right guard, but he got pretty close.

What was supposed to be one of the bigger competitions of training camp never materialized.

While McCray's would-be challenger, Lucas Patrick, has spent a big chunk of camp at left guard as starter Lane Taylor has dealt with ankle and quad issues, McCray has taken every first-team rep.

"I hope so," McCarthy said Tuesday when asked if McCray was the starter. "You want to keep the competition open but, yeah, I think he's done a heck of a job at this point."

McCray wasn't taking anything for granted.

"I'm not trying to call it out right now," McCray said. "I think it's still a competition. I still need to keep working hard, still need to keep getting better every day, but I realize I'm not getting taken out (of the lineup) a lot. I definitely have realized that."

At this time last year, McCray was making an unlikely run toward a roster spot. An undrafted free agent out of Central Florida in 2014, McCray spent his rookie season on Tennessee's practice squad. He failed to make the Titans' roster in 2015 and spent the year out of football.

6JMS Mafia II faces Thunder Dart Impact in finals

By FAHIM UDDIN
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REPORTER

The 6JMS Mafia II (269-106) and 6JMS Thunder Darts Impact (171-204) advanced to the finals of the Tuesday B Division of the Saipan Electronic Darts Association Bud Light Cup.

The 6JMS Thunder Darts Impact defeated Chamberos last Tuesday, 8-4, to make it to the title game that will be played on Aug. 21. The 6JMS Thunder Darts Impact won two games each in the Partners 501 Double in Double Out, Singles Crazy or Random Cricket, Partners 701 Open in Double Out, and Singles Half-It.

In the other semis game, the 6JMS Mafia II completely handled the third-seeded 6JMS Strikers Impact, 8-0.

Meanwhile, in the A Division, the 6JMS Terminator is on top with its 280-179 record, while 6JMS Mafia I is not far behind at second after earning



6JMS Thunder Dart Impact players pose for a photo after winning against Chamberos in the semifinals of the Tuesday B Division of the Saipan Electronic Darts Association Bud Light Cup.

a 274-185 mark.

The 6JMS Terminator banked on Rick Elefante, Raymond "Yatz" Naluz, Tony "The Tiger" Castro, Ronald Doria, Chris "Cupcake" Omnes, Rowel "Owell" Alfaro, Kelvis "Small Hit" Alexander, John Cruz to dominate Amari's

Gunners, 14-3.

In other results, Jonny Roil Soil (271-188), which had Colin 'Boom Cruz, KJ "KrazyK" Villagomez, Carter "Ace" Calma, Jun "Shocker" Santos, Darrol "Ojisan" Atalig, Shayne Villanueva, and Cisco "Chico" Cruz as players, scored a 12-5

victory against the 6JMS Scorpion.

The 6JMS predators (185-274) beat another 6JMS-sponsored team 101 Prooers (237-222), 9-8, while 6JMS Mafia I edged the Drunken Warriors, 10-7. Naked Fish Ridin' Darryt beat 6JMS Striker Destroyers in a close game, 9-8.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

REVISED

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touch rugby,) in the calendar of events for next year's competition will be played in the second week (July 15 to 20), while tennis, table tennis, and indoor volleyball will extend their games in the final week.

Pacific Games Council executive director Andrew Minogue, in an email to participating

countries, lauded the organizers' decision to revise the schedule.

"Congratulations to CEO Hele (Falefata Hele Ei Mata-tia), sports director Niko (Lepale Niko Palamo) and their team for pulling this program together, which makes good allowances for teams coming in week one and transiting out for week two teams to reduce pressure in the Village (hotels)," Minogue stated in his letter.

He also encouraged the participating countries to provide information on their number of delegates to the Pacific Games.

"With PGA athletes and officials being accommodated in hotels, it will be critical for PGAs to provide accurate team size information in the coming months. The Council will be liaising shortly with each PGA to review the first

round of numerical entries and to make a best guess of what your Games team size will be, based on historical data and other factors," he added.

Meanwhile, Northern Marianas Sports Association president Michael White, after forwarding the competition schedule to NMSA members, urged local federations to raise funds early for their participation in the Pacific Games.

LEE

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At the bottom of the field, Smith prevailed in the all-Aussie match against Mia Repac, 6-4, 6-3, to move into the quarterfinals against Poulos, who triumphed in another all-Australia tiff against Helena Spiridis, 7-5, 7-5.

Meanwhile, in the doubles play, the CNMI's Robbie Schorr and Tahiti's Jeremy Guines also entered the quarterfinals after sweeping Ken

Song and Sean Lee, 6-1, 6-1.

Up next for Schorr and Guines are No. 4 seed Cihan Akay and Nikita Volonski, who came from a tough opening match to advance to the next round. The Australian paired pulled off a 6-1, 3-6, 10-4 win over New Zealand's Corvan Crowther and Nick Beamish.

Schorr and Guines are two of the only three Pacific Oceania players still in the race for the doubles title, as Vanuatu's Marlin Hannam and American Samoa's Larry Magala-

sin were ousted by the No. 1 seed Australian dup of Cavrak and Rinky Hijikata, 6-2, 6-4. Clement Mainguy of Vanuatu paired with Australia's Kamil Kozlowski and they won over Peter Politis and Phillip Sekulic, 6-4, 6-4, to set up a quarterfinals game against Cavrak and Hijikata.

In the women's doubles, Lee and her Aussie partner (Di Tommaso) fell to Miyaura and Otway in a closely fought game. The Kiwi pair escaped with a 7-6 (7) win in the first set, while

Lee and Di Tommaso recovered and took the second, 6-3. Then in the super-tiebreaker third set, the New Zealand players completed the upset over their No. 3 seed opponent after recording a 10-5 victory.

In other results in the women's doubles, Fiji's Saoirse Breen and Schuster rallied past fellow Pacific Oceania players Ruby Coffin and Rosalie Molbaleh, 4-6, 6-2, 10-2, to make it to the quarterfinals. Breen and Schuster will challenge Miyaura and Otway in the Round of 8.

Opening of Emon Lodge 179 caging pushed back

By FAHIM UDDIN
fahimuddin489@gmail.com
REPORTER

The Emon Lodge No. 179 Brotherhood League will not be opening this Saturday, as organizers are still finalizing the schedule of the competition.

League secretary Bong Malasarte said they will meet at the Armatech office today to discuss details of the league, including the new kick-off date.

So far, nine teams have already registered to play in the tournament that will be held at the Koblerville Gymnasium. Kensington Hotel Saipan, Kanoa Resort, Pacific Island Club Saipan, Armatech, MJD,

Blue Haus, Pegs/JWS, CelPro, and Saipan Postal are the teams competing in the league.

Each squad is allowed to have 15 players with 10 members must be in the 40 or above age group and five in the 39 and under. Teams are requested to turn in their

rosters and choose the color of their jerseys. Players, on the other hand, must provide a copy of their filled-out waiver and registration forms before they are allowed compete in the league.

Game schedule and other details will be announced later. For more information, contact Malasarte at 287-5525.

SBL

From Page 28

foi foi for the last two strikeouts. Leadoff batter J.J. Li-foi foi flied out at shortstop. Deleon Guerrero came in for John Tudela midway at the bottom of the seventh after the Falcons fought back and scored three runs. The closer managed to stop the bleeding for the Aces after striking out J.J. Sablan and stranding a runner at second base. Deleon Guerrero added one more strikeout in the eighth and the Aces kept their defensive stand in the ensuing plays to prevent the Fal-

cons from scoring.

Ben Jones went only 2-for-5 for the Aces, but scored four runs, while Angel Falig added three and also hit 2-for-5.

In the Mariners-Indians game, Nate Camacho and Ton Tenorio delivered three runs apiece to lift the former to the win.

The Mariners registered nine of their total runs in the first four innings to take control of the match. The Indians, on the other hand, were limited to one run on each inning they scored. The Indians fell to a 2-14 mark with two games left (versus GSM tonight and Bears on Aug. 21).

CNMI Disability Sports Festival

PHOTOS By ROSELYN B. MONROYO



Participants and volunteers in last weekend's CNMI Disability Sports Festival race in the outrigger canoe event at the Kilili Park.



Participants perform warm-up drills before heading into the water for the canoe races.



Napu Outrigger Canoe Club coach Jason Tarkong, fight, instructs participants how to paddle.



A volunteer gives tips to a participant during the adaptive softball event at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.



Northern Marianas Athletics volunteers watch a participant does the frisbee throw at the Marianas High School grounds.

A volunteer hands over a ball to a participant in the bocchia event.



Napu Outrigger Canoe Club's Steven Goodwin, right, waits for instructions from event organizers before getting into the canoe and joining participants in the sportsfest.



Federer wins,
Serena loses in
Cincy tourney

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Saipan Tribune Sports

Puig takes swing
at Hundley
before Giants
beat Dodgers

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Lee, Schorr stay in contention



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Robbie Schorr, seen here getting ready for a return during a local tournament last year, is in the quarterfinals of the doubles event in the Oceania Closed Junior Championships 2018 in Fiji.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The CNMI's Carol Lee and Robbie Schorr are still in the title hunt in the Oceania Closed Junior Championships 2018 following their victories in the ITF Juniors Circuit competition yesterday in Fiji.

Lee defeated Australia's Roopa Bains, 6-2, 6-0, to march into the quarterfinals of the 32-player field women's singles event. In the Round of 8, the Commonwealth bet, who also swept New Zealand's Ema Miyaura in her opening game, will be facing another Land Down Under player in Anastacia Berezov. The Aussie set a quarterfinals date with the No. 4 seed Lee after stunning compatriot Ciara Di Tommaso, 6-0, 6-0.

With Di Tommaso booted out, only five of the eight seeded players are still in contention for the singles championship. The four other ranked players who move into the quarterfinals were No. 1 Valentina Ivanov of New Zealand and No. 2 Megan Smith, No. 7 Annerly Poulos, and No. 3 Amber Marshall of Australia.

Marshall won over compa-

triot Natasha Russell, 6-0, 4-6, 6-2, and will be pitted against fellow Aussie and the unseeded Tayla Whitehouse, who also needed three sets to beat New Zealand's Jade Otway at the top half of the draw, 6-1, 3-6, 7-5.

Ivanov, on the other hand,



blanked Samoa's Eleanor Schuster, 6-1, 6-2, to arrange a quarterfinal duel with New Zealand's Elys Saguil-Ventura—a 6-1, 6-2 winner over No. 5 Grace Schumacher, still at the top half of the draw.

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SBL: Last 2 playoff berths still up for grabs

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER



The race for the final two semis tickets in the 2018 Saipan Baseball League is still open following the Mariners and Aces' victories early this week at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

The Mariners downed the Indians, 10-6, last Monday, while the Aces defeated the Falcons last Tuesday, 14-7.

The Aces are supposed to be done with the regular season, as the defending champions finished the double-round robin contest with a 12-6 record for third place in the team standings. However, their win against the Mariners (5-3) is placed under protest and SBL would still have to meet today to make the final decision on the game and the Aces' official rankings. Only the Top 4 teams will advance to the playoffs and the Chalan Kanoa Bears (15-1) and Go See Mark (13-3) have already secured the first two semis slots.

The Falcons and Mariners are at close fourth place with their similar 11-6 marks. The Falcons have one more game



JON PEREZ

An Aces pitcher takes his time before throwing to the plate during an earlier game in the 2018 Saipan Baseball League at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

left (versus the Bears this Friday), while the Mariners, though not official yet, would be given the automatic win in their last match versus Ballistics (forfeiture as per tournament rules). The Mariners may either end up with a 12-6 or 13-5 slate, depending on the decision of the under protest match (Aug. 9) against the Aces.

The Aces denied the Falcons' bid to move into the playoffs and made the battle for the last two semis tickets complicated after gaining cushion against their foes at top of the eighth inning.

The defending champions were clinging to an 8-7 lead after seven complete innings before starting the eighth with five runs to widen the gap, 13-7. The Aces added one more in the ninth and then shut down the Falcons in the last two, including a 1-2-3 at the bottom of the ninth to wrap up the game.

Joe Deleon Guerrero closed out for the Aces and fanned Bradley Lieto and Kolbee Li-

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Revised scheduled for XVI Pacific Games out

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The revised competition schedule for the XVI Pacific

Games in Apia, Samoa has been released with tournaments starting on July 8 next year.

The opening ceremony is

set for July 7 and the quadrennial event will run until July 20. Archery, badminton, basketball (5x5), beach volleyball, cricket, soccer, lawn

bowls, Rugby League 9's, squash, and swimming will kick off their respective competitions on July 7. Canoe racing, weightlifting, triathlon, golf, and Rugby 7's will also start in the first week of the Pacific Games.

Majority of the remaining sports (athletics, 3x3 basketball, boxing, judo, netball, powerlifting, table tennis, taekwondo, shooting, and

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Pacific Games Council officials and organizers of the XVI Pacific Games listen to a question of one of the attendees in the group's general assembly in Apia, Samoa in June this year.

